



HR0172

LRB102 17836 ECR 24269 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Rapid land development in Illinois has led to the  
3 loss of forestlands, farmlands, wildlife habitats,  
4 biodiversity, outstanding natural areas, beaches, and public  
5 areas for outdoor recreation; this has impacted the health of  
6 the State's lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands, all of which  
7 impacts the quality of life of the State's current and future  
8 citizens; this land development may jeopardize the well-being  
9 of the State's environment and economy if not addressed  
10 appropriately; and

11           WHEREAS, This same rapid land development has also led to  
12 the loss of historical and archaeological sites that embody  
13 the heritage of the State; and

14           WHEREAS, This incredible loss of natural land is occurring  
15 across the United States and around the world; and

16           WHEREAS, Scientists have documented this rapid loss of  
17 natural area and wildlife, including the loss of 1,500,000  
18 acres of natural area in the United States per year, the loss  
19 of 2,900,000,000, or twenty-nine percent, of North American  
20 birds since 1970, threats to approximately 12,000 plant and  
21 animal species in the United States, all of which are in need  
22 of proactive conservation efforts, and the loss of one-half of

1 freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the contiguous  
2 forty-eight states; and

3 WHEREAS, Scientists have recommended conserving and  
4 protecting thirty percent of the land and thirty percent of  
5 the ocean in each country by 2030 in order to address this  
6 deterioration of natural systems, loss of biodiversity, and  
7 rapid land development; and

8 WHEREAS, In order to support national efforts and provide  
9 state leadership to address the deterioration of natural  
10 systems, loss of biodiversity, and rapid land development,  
11 Illinois must establish a bold goal for the amount of land to  
12 be protected by the year 2030; and

13 WHEREAS, Building upon the legislative work of previous  
14 students from Pontiac Township High School, Lemont High  
15 School, and Whitney Young High School, Emilie Collins and  
16 Keagan Hall of Pontiac Township High School in Pontiac and  
17 Emilee Bencivenga of the Department of Defense Dependents  
18 Ramstein American High School in Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany  
19 knew something needed to be done and created a piece of  
20 legislation that amends the Illinois Natural Areas  
21 Preservation Act and creates the Illinois Thirty-By-Thirty  
22 Conservation Task Force; and

1           WHEREAS, That task force shall review and make  
2 recommendations to the General Assembly regarding conservation  
3 of Illinois land and implementation of strategies to conserve  
4 and protect 30 percent of land in Illinois by 2030; therefore,  
5 be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we commend Emilie Collins, Keagan Hall, Emilee Bencivenga, and  
9 all of the students involved for their work to create  
10 legislation to conserve the land, rivers, and lakes of  
11 Illinois for present and future generations to enjoy, taking  
12 into account a wide range of flexible and enduring  
13 conservation solutions that will improve access to nature for  
14 all people within Illinois, especially for communities that  
15 have historically lacked access to natural spaces; and be it  
16 further

17           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 presented to Emilie Collins, Keagan Hall, and Emilee  
19 Bencivenga as an expression of our esteem and respect.