



HR0238

LRB102 18160 MST 25635 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the McHenry County
4 Conservation District on the occasion of the 50th anniversary
5 of its founding; and

6 WHEREAS, The Conservation District Act (70 ILCS 410) was
7 established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1963; and

8 WHEREAS, On April 6, 1971, the McHenry County Conservation
9 District was formed by a successful county-wide referendum
10 held in conjunction with the consolidated election of 1971 and
11 was formally organized in July of 1971; and

12 WHEREAS, The founders envisioned a public agency that
13 would preserve and protect the land and water they loved and on
14 which they lived, while promoting a way of life they cherished
15 and establishing a place that could be shared with the
16 wildlife around them; and

17 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District exists
18 to preserve, restore, and manage natural areas and open spaces
19 for their intrinsic value and for the benefits to present and
20 future generations; and

1 WHEREAS, Over the past 50 years, the McHenry County
2 Conservation District has secured and protected more than
3 25,600 acres, diverse with woodlands, wetlands, prairies,
4 creeks, and rivers that afford habitat for a wide array of
5 native plants and wildlife species, including numerous
6 endangered and threatened species, that clean and filter
7 surface and ground water, and that provide for clean air; and

8 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has
9 dedicated 17 sites as Illinois State Nature Preserves and has
10 helped to establish the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge in
11 southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has
13 partnered with many local, state, regional, and national
14 governmental agencies, institutions, businesses, and
15 not-for-profits to advance its conservation mission and
16 vision; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the McHenry County
18 Conservation District has been awarded and nationally
19 recognized as a leader in conservation and environmental
20 stewardship excellence for its role in ecological restoration,
21 rare plant discoveries, scientific research, innovative
22 management strategies, wildlife reintroduction, investments in
23 green infrastructure, greenway corridors, and trail

1 connections, and thus establishing McHenry County as a
2 treasured destination and a place to call home; and

3 WHEREAS, McHenry County conservation areas provide access
4 to open space and public amenities in 35 locations where
5 residents and visitors can enjoy outdoor recreational pursuits
6 on 106 miles of hiking trails, 45 miles of regional biking
7 trails, 25 fishing areas, six campgrounds, six canoe launches,
8 36 miles of horse trails, and 18 sites with multiple picnic
9 areas and shelters, as well as a multitude of opportunities
10 for wildlife viewing; and

11 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District hosts
12 over one million visitors each year, including during 2020 as
13 outdoor explorations were deemed essential during the COVID-19
14 pandemic and sites were able to stay open for the health and
15 mental well-being of all residents; and

16 WHEREAS, For five decades, the McHenry County Conservation
17 District leaders, dedicated staff, and volunteers have
18 achieved the vision set forth by the founders and fulfilled
19 promises made to county residents to protect, preserve, and
20 enhance the properties owned by the conservation district and
21 held in perpetuity, for all county residents to enjoy daily
22 and for decades to come; and

1 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to celebrate and recognize the
2 milestones achieved, the growth, progress, perseverance,
3 achievements, and accomplishments, the many partnerships that
4 help bring projects to life, and most importantly the citizens
5 of McHenry County who placed their trust in the conservation
6 district to bring into being the conservation dream envisioned
7 by the founders; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate the McHenry County Conservation District on
11 its 50th anniversary, and it is with deep and sincere
12 gratitude and heartfelt appreciation that we hereby
13 congratulate the past and present board of trustees, staff,
14 volunteers and citizens of McHenry County; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the board of trustees for the McHenry County
17 Conservation District as an expression of our esteem and
18 gratitude.