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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the Rend Lake Conservancy District, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of building Rend Lake; and

WHEREAS, The area surrounding Rend Lake and the Rend Lake Conservancy District has a rich history and heritage unique to the Southern Illinois region; and

WHEREAS, Despite plentiful rainfall and its location between two of the nation's great rivers, the Mississippi and Ohio, the land surrounding Rend Lake was originally plagued by a lack of water for decades; and

WHEREAS, Southern Illinois first flourished as a coal mining area in the early 1920s, with coal miners such as Colonel William P. Rend establishing towns like Rend City, from whom Rend Lake takes its name; and

WHEREAS, By the 1950s, the onset of an economically devastating three-year drought took its toll on the region; as a result, plans to construct a large water supply lake to solve the area's water problems began to take form; those plans

1 became the Rend Lake Project; and

2 WHEREAS, With the support of the Rend Lake Conservancy  
3 District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the  
4 87th Congress of the United States authorized the building of  
5 Rend Lake near Benton, Illinois with the Flood Control Act of  
6 October 23, 1962; and

7 WHEREAS, The Flood Control Act gave the U.S. Army Corps of  
8 Engineers the responsibility for Rend Lake's development; the  
9 \$60 million dollar project was completed ahead of schedule;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The authorized purposes of the Rend Lake Project  
12 include flood control on the Big Muddy and Mississippi Rivers,  
13 water supply, water quality control, fish and wildlife  
14 conservation, recreation, and area redevelopment; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, Rend Lake is a multipurpose gem of  
16 Southern Illinois that has greatly enhanced the region's  
17 quality of life, supplying over 15 million gallons of water  
18 per day to 300,000 persons in over 60 communities; and

19 WHEREAS, Rend Lake continues to have a positive impact on  
20 the community, bringing millions of tourists, sportsmen, and  
21 adventure seekers to the region, further boosting the economy

1 of Southern Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, A celebration marking the 50th anniversary of  
3 Rend Lake, hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Rend  
4 Lake Conservancy District, and the Illinois Department of  
5 Natural Resources, featuring local and regional elected  
6 officials, was held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rend  
7 Lake Project Office & Visitor Center on Saturday, September  
8 10, 2022; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we recognize the Rend Lake Conservancy District, the Illinois  
12 Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of  
13 Engineers on the 50th anniversary of building Rend Lake; and  
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
16 presented to officials of the Rend Lake Conservancy District,  
17 the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S.  
18 Army Corps of Engineers as an expression of our esteem and  
19 respect.