



HR0964

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1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The people of Illinois have an important  
3 relationship with nature and have called on their local,  
4 state, and federal government to preserve and protect nature,  
5 both within the State of Illinois and across the United  
6 States; and

7           WHEREAS, Illinois is the home of species and habitats that  
8 are of ecological, spiritual, cultural, historic,  
9 recreational, and scientific value to the people of Illinois  
10 and need to be protected for current and future generations;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Illinois and the United States are facing an  
13 unprecedented biodiversity crisis, largely driven by human  
14 activity; and

15           WHEREAS, Addressing the biodiversity crisis requires  
16 coordinated action across national and state boundaries; and

17           WHEREAS, Human-driven activities are significantly  
18 damaging the Earth's ecosystems by altering 75 percent of the  
19 area of terrestrial environments and 66 percent of marine  
20 environments; these activities are directly exploiting  
21 wildlife and plant species, accelerating climate change,

1 directly harming nature, introducing invasive species,  
2 polluting air, land, and water, and exacerbating other  
3 threats; and

4 WHEREAS, Human-driven activities are threatening  
5 approximately one million species with extinction in the  
6 coming decades, including over 40 percent of amphibians, 33  
7 percent of corals, sharks, shark relatives, and marine  
8 mammals, over 60 percent of cycads, over 30 percent of conifer  
9 trees, and approximately 10 percent of over 5 million insect  
10 species; these activities are additionally causing population  
11 sizes of wild species to decline by an average of 68 percent  
12 for mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles, including  
13 the loss of nearly 3 billion birds in North America since 1970;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Human activity is accelerating the decline of  
16 important economic and cultural services with the productivity  
17 of nearly one-fourth of the land surface reduced, with over  
18 one-third of land surface and 75 percent of freshwater  
19 resources devoted to crop or livestock production, with  
20 approximately half a trillion dollars of global crops at risk  
21 from pollinator loss, and with 25 percent of greenhouse gas  
22 emissions caused by land clearing, crops, and fertilization;  
23 and

1           WHEREAS, Coordination at a global, national, regional, and  
2 local scale is necessary to address the biodiversity crisis;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The decline of biodiversity disproportionately  
5 impacts indigenous and other communities that rely on nature  
6 for essential services, including Native Americans and Alaska  
7 Natives, who offer unique perspectives and traditional  
8 ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity; and

9           WHEREAS, The United States possesses an abundance and  
10 great diversity of species of fish, wildlife, and plants that  
11 are of significant value to the United States for intrinsic,  
12 aesthetic, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational,  
13 economic, and scientific reasons; and

14           WHEREAS, The decline of biodiversity presents a direct  
15 threat to the security, health, and well-being of the people  
16 of the United States by causing economic harm through the loss  
17 of valuable ecosystem services, including zoonotic disease  
18 buffering, pollination, water filtration, soil replenishment,  
19 provision of game species, medicinal products, recreational  
20 opportunities, and others; and

21           WHEREAS, Communities of color, low-income communities,  
22 tribal communities, and other populations that have been

1 systematically and deliberately targeted for the siting of  
2 environmentally degrading activities and excluded from  
3 conservation efforts face disproportionate impacts from  
4 biodiversity loss; and

5 WHEREAS, There is no coordinating policy to maximize the  
6 effectiveness of the federal government's conservation efforts  
7 and collaboration with the states, local governments, tribes,  
8 private landowners, and other nongovernmental stakeholders;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The United States should play a leading role on  
11 the international stage in addressing the biodiversity crisis,  
12 yet the United States is not a party to the Convention on  
13 Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and  
14 other relevant international agreements; additionally, the  
15 U.S. does not issue a national biodiversity outlook, contrary  
16 to most other countries, and does not have a national  
17 biodiversity strategy as part of the Intergovernmental  
18 Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem  
19 Services; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we urge the federal government to:

23 (1) Establish a national biodiversity strategy to

1 ensure the conservation and restoration of the nation's  
2 biodiversity;

3 (2) Secure and restore the ecosystem services provided  
4 by nature for current and future generations;

5 (3) Deliver on the United Nations Sustainable  
6 Development Goals;

7 (4) Set ambitious yet necessary goals for protecting  
8 biodiversity in the coming decades;

9 (5) Promote social equity and justice in the  
10 conservation of the nation's biodiversity;

11 (6) Coordinate the actions of federal agencies to  
12 advance the conservation of biodiversity;

13 (7) Promote collaboration among the federal, state,  
14 and tribal governments, nongovernmental stakeholders, and  
15 civil society and internationally to advance conservation;

16 (8) Honor the federal trust obligations to tribal  
17 nations and Native Americans; and

18 (9) Provide global leadership in addressing the  
19 biodiversity crisis; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge the federal government to develop  
21 the national biodiversity strategy with significant public  
22 input and in collaboration and coordination with federal and  
23 state agencies; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That we urge the federal government's national

1 biodiversity strategy to include direction on:

2 (1) Supporting the national goal of conserving at  
3 least 30 percent of United States lands and waters to  
4 protect biodiversity by 2030;

5 (2) Setting other goals necessary to reduce the  
6 threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best available  
7 scientific information;

8 (3) Taking action to protect threatened, endangered,  
9 and at-risk species from further imperilment or  
10 extinction; and

11 (4) Reviewing existing laws, plans, programs, and  
12 strategies that are relevant to addressing threats to  
13 biodiversity to assess how they can contribute to the  
14 objectives of this resolution and, as found necessary, to  
15 recommend new laws, plans, programs, and strategies and  
16 fund existing conservation programs and develop new  
17 funding sources; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies be delivered to the  
19 President, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate  
20 Minority Leader, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House  
21 of Representatives Minority Leader, and all members of the  
22 Illinois Congressional Delegation.