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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Evidence from thousands of studies connect increasing atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations with escalating annual average temperatures, shrinking sea ice, melting glaciers, rising sea levels/temperatures, and increasing atmospheric water vapor, all of which connect to extremes in global climate; and

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WHEREAS, These increasing climate extremes threaten both current and future ecological system sustainability upon which health and well-being depend; and

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WHEREAS, These influences reach beyond State and national boundaries with implications for all humanity but disproportionately affect the most vulnerable; and

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WHEREAS, The interaction of political, economic, and cultural factors influence resource availability and related resilience of families and communities, with a higher risk of adverse health consequences borne by geographic areas with fewer economic resources and greater health disparities; and

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WHEREAS, Climate-related health risks tend to worsen health conditions, which increases chronic and infectious diseases, injuries and premature life-loss from

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1 physical/psychosocial disabilities, trauma from separation of  
2 families, disruption of healthcare and social services,  
3 infectious disease vulnerability, risk of dehydration and  
4 inadequate nutrition, heat stress, and psychological and  
5 adjustment disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, Unchecked continuation of current climate trends  
7 undermine the sustainability of water systems, agricultural  
8 production, and biodiversity, contributing to basic resource  
9 depletion, famine, social disruption, population  
10 displacement/emigration, increased potential for violent  
11 conflict, and decreased regional and global stability; and

12 WHEREAS, The vulnerability of the Midwest and the State of  
13 Illinois is a microcosm of these influences from increasing  
14 heat, humidity, precipitation, flooding, soil erosion,  
15 sedimentation, property damage, late-season drought, invasive  
16 species, pests, and plant diseases, leading to reduced air and  
17 water quality, biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and  
18 worker safety/productivity, all of which jeopardize human  
19 health, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing/commerce,  
20 recreation/tourism, and economic vibrancy; and

21 WHEREAS, Many of these consequences can be prevented or  
22 substantially minimized through interventions that  
23 dramatically reduce GHG emissions, such as decreased reliance

1 on carbon-based fuels (i.e. gas, oil and coal) and energy  
2 waste and increased energy conservation and reliance on  
3 renewable energy sources (i.e. wind, solar and potentially  
4 nuclear fusion); and

5 WHEREAS, Such a paradigm shift in the consumption and  
6 production of energy is not just a necessity but an  
7 opportunity for innovation, job creation, and substantial  
8 environmental and related health, economic, social and  
9 national security benefits, all of which represent co-benefits  
10 in addition to reducing the risk of climate change; and

11 WHEREAS, Solutions to securing a more sustainable global  
12 environment lie exclusively in the domain of individual and  
13 collective actions aimed at holding global average temperature  
14 increases to well below 2°C (3.6°F), above preindustrial  
15 levels, and to pursuing efforts to limit such temperature  
16 increases to 1.5°C (2.7°F); and

17 WHEREAS, Cities, urban areas, and states represent unique,  
18 scalable incubators for innovation to counteract climate  
19 change, especially since policies adopted in such  
20 jurisdictions typically have the most immediate impact on the  
21 daily lives of their residents; and

22 WHEREAS, Paramount to a coordinated, collective response

1 to this threat is an acknowledgment of the risk it represents  
2 for all humankind and the urgency to apply best available  
3 science-based interventions; and

4 WHEREAS, The physical sciences have established this  
5 understanding, but the social sciences are critical in  
6 translating this knowledge to adaptive and mitigative actions  
7 to match the need, and one of public health strengths is  
8 functioning effectively at the nexus of the physical and  
9 social sciences; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the State of Illinois  
12 should play an important role in addressing climate change by  
13 taking the following steps:

14 (1) Encourage local and State elected leaders (i.e.  
15 mayors, county board chairs/executives and governors) to  
16 officially endorse and engage in the respective  
17 commitments, momentum, and resources available through  
18 Climate Reality Mayors, Climate Resolution for County  
19 Executives, and the U.S. Climate Alliance;

20 (2) Urge implementation of public and/or  
21 public-private collaborative alternative financing  
22 opportunities to encourage green development and climate  
23 resilient infrastructure;

24 (3) Conduct, encourage, and support advocacy,

1 education, and public awareness on the threat from climate  
2 change and its solutions;

3 (4) Establish support for and funding of research,  
4 surveillance, reporting, and tracking of climate-related  
5 health effects;

6 (5) Expand State and local preparedness and its  
7 funding for disaster readiness and response to effectively  
8 assist in climate-related event resilience and rapid  
9 recovery; and

10 (6) Promote green energy production and energy  
11 efficiency in all public policies and practices, while  
12 disincentivizing reliance on carbon-based fuels and  
13 utilizing as examples new and rehabilitated public  
14 facilities.