



HR0047

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Soil loss from sheet and ephemeral gully erosion is a major issue in Madison County, totaling over \$9,000,000 of resource loss annually; and

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WHEREAS, Eroded soil has contributed to sedimentation of ditches, ponds, lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and other areas, increasing the possibility of flooding and environmental degradation; and

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WHEREAS, Agricultural and urban lands contribute to runoff, which pollutes the water supply; and

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WHEREAS, The major water quality impairments in Madison County are sediment, nutrients, pesticides, heavy metals, fecal coliform, and pathogens; and

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WHEREAS, Urban development in Madison County has significantly increased water runoff and is causing the potential for increased soil erosion and downstream flooding; and

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WHEREAS, Most urban development has been on prime farmland, and more farmland is being used by new, large farms to cultivate cash crops in former pasture and hay fields,

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1 expediting soil erosion; and

2 WHEREAS, Urban development has caused fragmentation of
3 wildlife habitats in former farmland, woodland, and other
4 natural areas, causing a major negative impact on species
5 diversity in Madison County; and

6 WHEREAS, Air quality due to industrial activity is also an
7 issue, which is compounded by wind erosion of sandy soils in
8 the American Bottom; and

9 WHEREAS, The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation
10 District (SWCD) was organized under the Illinois Soil
11 Conservation Act in 1945 to conserve soil, water, wildlife,
12 and forest resources of Madison County; and

13 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD mission statement is "to
14 continue to guide landowners, farmers, municipalities,
15 developers, contractors, and others to the wise use of our
16 natural resources"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD has been proactive in
18 confronting these environmental concerns through providing
19 technical assistance to landowners, local units of government,
20 developers, contractors, and other stakeholders to assist them
21 in planning and applying conservation measures, including to

1 landowners participating in the United States Department of
2 Agriculture Farm Bill Conservation Programs; and

3 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD also provides education
4 programs to help students and other members of the public
5 understand the economic and environmental benefits of natural
6 resource conservation; and

7 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD provides inspections on
8 storm water permits as issued by the Illinois Environmental
9 Protection Agency; and

10 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD assists the Madison
11 County Planning and Development Office, cooperates with State
12 agencies, and develops annual reports highlighting
13 accomplishments and progress in addressing natural resource
14 issues in the county; and

15 WHEREAS, The Madison County SWCD provides planning,
16 survey, and design for the State of Illinois Partners for
17 Conservation Program and provides onsite technical visits for
18 resource management; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we recognize the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation

1 District on its 75th anniversary and acknowledge the
2 contributions made by its directors who have impacted the
3 health of the people, land, and communities of their county
4 for the better; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation
7 District and its officers, Chair Jason Hirsch, Vice Chair Lisa
8 Coverdale, Treasurer Tim Palmer, Co-Treasurer Frederick
9 Martens, and Secretary Tom Moss as an expression of our
10 respect and esteem for a successful first 75 years of service
11 on the front lines of resource conservation in Illinois.