



HR0547

LRB103 35795 MST 65879 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Wetlands, including marshes, swamps, and bogs,
3 play a critical role in reducing flooding, recharging
4 groundwater supplies, and filtering pollutants and nutrients;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois contains hundreds of ecologically
7 significant wetlands that provide habitat for a rich array of
8 wildlife, including endangered species, and that are critical
9 for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds due to their location
10 within the Mississippi Flyway; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1972, the Clean Water Act has played an
12 essential role in protecting aquatic environments from
13 pollution and maintaining their role in providing drinking
14 water, recreation, and wildlife habitats; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court dramatically
16 weakened the Clean Water Act in its ruling in the Sackett v.
17 Environmental Protection Agency case; and

18 WHEREAS, Sackett concluded that the Clean Water Act does
19 not protect wetlands that do not have a continuous surface
20 connection to a federally protected body of water; and

1 WHEREAS, Illinois has lost 90% of its original wetlands;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois has a goal of reducing phosphorus and
4 nitrogen levels by 30% by 2035; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois landowners are taking proactive steps to
6 protect and install wetlands and buffer habitats; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has a responsibility to
8 protect its remaining wetlands and reduce pollution;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare February 2, 2024 as "World Wetlands Day" in the
13 State of Illinois; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we urge state agencies, local governments,
15 and other organizations to work together to preserve and
16 protect wetlands.