



10300SR0632 Enrolled

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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 632

2 WHEREAS, Article 11 SECTION 1 of the Illinois State  
3 Constitution states that it is the public policy of the State  
4 and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a  
5 healthful environment for the benefit of this and future  
6 generations; and

7 WHEREAS, SECTION 2 states each person has the right to a  
8 healthful environment and that each person may enforce this  
9 right against any party, governmental or private, through  
10 appropriate legal proceedings subject to reasonable limitation  
11 and regulation as the General Assembly may provide by the law;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is charged by law with  
14 providing for the implementation and enforcement of this  
15 public policy; and

16 WHEREAS, The Illinois 30 by 30 Task Force discussed the  
17 application of the 30 by 30 concept in Illinois and considered  
18 how agriculture is a predominate land use in the state (75% of  
19 the State's land area); and

20 WHEREAS, The Task Force determined that part of a  
21 successful strategy would include dedication through fee

1 simple and easement acquisition, as well as voluntary  
2 conservation practices; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently, 4.2% of the total land area in  
4 Illinois is formally protected for conservation purposes  
5 through public and private mechanisms; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, the Illinois Department  
7 of Natural Resources has acquired approximately 20,000 acres  
8 in fee simple acquisitions; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has two  
10 programs that offer the highest level of legal protection for  
11 natural lands in Illinois, the Dedicated Nature Preserve and  
12 the Registered Land and Water Reserve; and

13 WHEREAS, The Conservation and Fall Covers for Spring  
14 Savings are two programs that support conservation practices  
15 on agricultural land; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 1.5 million acres are currently under  
17 contract for three programs in Illinois through the Department  
18 of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
19 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation  
20 Stewardship Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership  
21 Program; and

1           WHEREAS, The health of Illinois' ecosystems is threatened  
2 by a number of issues, including habitat degradation and loss,  
3 hydrological modifications, spread of exotic species, and  
4 economic constraints; and

5           WHEREAS, Over 90% of land in Illinois is privately owned,  
6 making conservation partnerships in Illinois an imperative;  
7 roughly 87,000 acres of natural lands, both private and  
8 public, are preserved in the Illinois Nature Preserves  
9 Commission's Nature Preserve and Land and Water Reserve land  
10 protection programs; and

11           WHEREAS, Information collected from the measuring of  
12 conserved lands would help the State to determine the adequate  
13 amount of land that should be conserved, to define the overall  
14 percentages and the breakdown by geographical area, and to  
15 focus the discussion of access to conserved lands; and

16           WHEREAS, The amount of work needed for a successful  
17 outcome would best be accomplished by collaboration with all  
18 coordinating State agencies; and

19           WHEREAS, In addition, conservation capacity can be built  
20 by increasing conservation agency staffing; and

1           WHEREAS, The participation of students on this project is  
2 important for the coordination between public and conservation  
3 efforts; and

4           WHEREAS, Aligning programs with local priorities and  
5 values provides feedback and actively engages local  
6 communities in preparation for new programs and open space;  
7 therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the creation of  
10 a coordinating council under the Illinois Department of  
11 Natural Resources and the Illinois Department of Agriculture;  
12 and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the coordinating council should meet at a  
14 minimum of two times to bring together a relevant staff of  
15 agencies, students of Pontiac Township High School, and  
16 non-governmental organizations, including the largest  
17 statewide association representing agriculture, to develop a  
18 strategy for implementation of 30 by 30 Task Force  
19 recommendations; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 delivered to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the  
22 Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Pontiac Township High

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1 School.