



SR0891

LRB103 39894 LAW 70886 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

3

4

5

6

7

WHEREAS, In August 1993, a Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) was executed to recognize that the Illinois Shoreline Erosion Interim 3 Project (Project) would affect portions of the Chicago shoreline that are historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); and

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, The Agreement prioritizes the preservation of the historic properties and elements on the shoreline, with repair and rehabilitation to be performed consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (SOI standards), and aims for a design plan that would lead to a finding of No Adverse Effects (NAE) by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); and

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

WHEREAS, The Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has consulted with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 and Section 106 of the 1965 National Historic Preservation Act to define the Agreement and prioritize the protection of the historic properties at Promontory Point so that the designs and planning for the shoreline management developed for Promontory Point would allow for a finding of No Adverse

1 Effect (NAE); and

2 WHEREAS, The Agreement requires amending because the  
3 construction and rehabilitation of the Promontory Point reach  
4 of the original Project was not completed; and

5 WHEREAS, A major component of the uncompleted Project is  
6 Promontory Point, a 40-acre peninsula at the south end of  
7 Burnham Park, Chicago, comprising the Area of Potential  
8 Effects (APE), herein referred to as the "Undertaking"; and

9 WHEREAS, The scope of the Undertaking includes the  
10 pre-design, review, design planning, construction, and  
11 maintenance of the step-stone limestone revetment and  
12 promenade at Promontory Point for erosion control and storm  
13 damage management, and it specifically includes the repair and  
14 rehabilitation of the step-stone limestone revetment and  
15 promenade at Promontory Point, approximately 3,200 linear feet  
16 of shoreline between East 54th and 56th Streets; and

17 WHEREAS, The step-stone limestone revetment and promenade  
18 at Promontory Point is now subject to the continuation and  
19 funding of the Project consistent with the Agreement and the  
20 SOI standards; and

21 WHEREAS, Section 8336 of the Water Resources Development

1 Act (WRDA) of 2022 in the National Defense Authorization Act  
2 for Fiscal Year 2023 appropriates funding to finish the  
3 uncompleted sections of the shoreline Project, including  
4 Promontory Point; the 2022 Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law,  
5 Public Law 117-58, funds an internal, third-party review of  
6 Promontory Point; also, a City of Chicago (City) 2023 capital  
7 bond funds a \$5m design and planning contract for Promontory  
8 Point; and

9 WHEREAS, The Agreement also necessitates amendment because  
10 of the 24-year history of commitment and involvement by the  
11 local and City-wide community to seek a genuine preservation  
12 outcome at Promontory Point; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2002, SHPO issued a letter providing  
14 its refusal to issue a finding of NAE in regards to proposed  
15 activities at Promontory Point for the Lake Michigan Shoreline  
16 Protection, as recorded under IPHA log #109170043WCK; and

17 WHEREAS, The Agreement and SHPO's June 21, 2002 letter  
18 specify repair and rehabilitation to match the existing  
19 step-stone limestone revetment and promenade and to minimize  
20 impacts to the historic resources at Promontory Point under  
21 the SOI standards; and

22 WHEREAS, Discussions led by then-Senator Obama with the

1 USACE, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District (CPD),  
2 SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP),  
3 and the consulting parties led to the 2006 Obama Scope of Work,  
4 which provided an agreed-upon path forward for a preservation  
5 approach and community engagement process to design planning  
6 and construction at Promontory Point; and

7 WHEREAS, Section 5072 of the WRDA of 2007 directed but  
8 never funded a third-party, unbiased, independent preservation  
9 feasibility and cost analysis study of Promontory Point to be  
10 supervised by the Buffalo and Seattle offices of the USACE but  
11 was not deemed an element of the Project; and

12 WHEREAS, Other third-party, independent marine engineering  
13 studies in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2024 all demonstrated that  
14 Promontory Point remains functioning and operational for storm  
15 damage and shoreline protection, and that a preservation  
16 approach to repairing the step-stone limestone revetment and  
17 promenade can meet erosion control and storm damage protection  
18 requirements; and

19 WHEREAS, Promontory Point was listed in the National  
20 Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on January 19, 2018, and it  
21 was designated a City of Chicago Landmark on April 19, 2023;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, The significant historic features of Promontory  
2 Point are identified as the pavilion field house, including  
3 its pathways, the meadow, and original plantings, four council  
4 rings, the step-stone limestone revetment, the promenade, the  
5 55th Street underpass and its porticos, and the David Wallach  
6 Fountain; and

7           WHEREAS, There are multiple conditions for the several  
8 elements of the structure of the revetment at Promontory  
9 Point, including the immediate parkland, the step-stone  
10 revetment, the promenade, the promenade sub-grade, and the  
11 timber cribbing; and

12           WHEREAS, The SOI standards provide for numerous treatments  
13 and solutions to address the multiple conditions of the  
14 limestone revetment and its structural elements at various  
15 locations and sections of Promontory Point; and

16           WHEREAS, Preserving the step-stone limestone revetment and  
17 promenade preserves the multi-generational, racial, and  
18 economic class community that has gathered at Promontory Point  
19 for almost 100 years; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support the  
22 legitimate Community Preservation Plan for Promontory Point,

1 Burnham Park, Chicago; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 delivered to Promontory Point Conservancy.