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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Litter is a problem that affects every community's health, safety, aesthetics, environment, and economy; and

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WHEREAS, Over the last half century, the amount of litter in our communities and across our nation has decreased by 61%, thanks to national public awareness campaigns and cleanup programs; despite these steps forward, the nation's litter problem still persists; and

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WHEREAS, Cleanup costs for litter are placed on business owners, property owners, and taxpayers; according to a study conducted by the American Chemical Society's Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research Journal, litter cleanup costs our nation \$11.5 billion a year; and

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WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, cleanup of litter has cost the State \$9.1 million over the past year; and

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WHEREAS, Increased cigarette litter has become a vast problem for the people, wildlife, and environment of the State, and has worsened since the Smoke Free Illinois Act went into effect on January 1, 2008; and

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1 WHEREAS, Approximately 10% of cigarette butts are properly
2 disposed of in ash receptacles, resulting in 4.5 trillion
3 cigarette butts being littered into the environment each year;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly all cigarette filters are composed of
6 slowly-decomposing cellulose acetate and can linger in the
7 environment for years; and

8 WHEREAS, Increased awareness by labeling cigarette butts
9 as litter, a fire hazard, an environmental hazard, and an
10 economic burden is an important step toward reducing cigarette
11 litter in communities; and

12 WHEREAS, The control of litter and litter prevention is
13 vitally important to the quality of life in Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., a national
15 nonprofit organization with a history of addressing litter for
16 over 50 years by encouraging individual responsibility,
17 community partnerships, and advocating volunteerism, is
18 addressing the emerging cigarette butt litter problem; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and many communities in the
20 State have formed partnerships with Keep America Beautiful,
21 including Carbondale, Centralia, Chicago, Evanston, Moline,

1 Peoria, Oak Park, Rock Island, Salem, Vermilion County, West
2 Cook County, and Northern Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, Keep America Beautiful has created a Cigarette
4 Litter Prevention Program that has successfully reduced
5 cigarette butt litter in communities by an average of 55%; and

6 WHEREAS, The Cigarette Litter Prevention Program has
7 achieved its success by implementing cigarette litter
8 awareness campaigns, encouraging the enforcement of litter
9 laws, and distributing cigarette receptacles and pocket
10 ashtrays; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the citizens of
13 Illinois to preserve the natural beauty of the State by
14 implementing litter control programs in their communities; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we urge the citizens of Illinois to pursue
17 federal and private grants to implement community based litter
18 control and prevention programs, like the Cigarette Litter
19 Prevention Program sponsored by Keep America Beautiful; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That we recognize Keep Illinois Beautiful for

1 their commitment to improving communities and environments in
2 Illinois and across the nation; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Keep Illinois Beautiful.