



HR0616

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake State Park and Recreation Area offers a peaceful and unspoiled natural haven located just west of the Chicago metropolitan area, which includes 1,550 acres of rolling grass-covered meadows, upland mesic woods, bottomland woods, a native, undisturbed fen, and 318.8 acre man-made fishing lake; and

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WHEREAS, Originally, the park was home to tribes of Native Americans and derives its name from Chief Shabbona; pioneer settlement of the area began in the 1830s to utilize the rich soils for farming; and

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WHEREAS, In 1965, it was decided to develop the lake and recreational area in Shabbona; land acquisition was begun in 1969; in 1973, the lake area was cleared of trees, the shoreline was modified, and earthen fishing piers and fish congregators were erected; by 1975, a 3,000-foot-long earthen dam and a concrete spillway was completed and the lake was formed; day use facilities were constructed in 1976 and continue to serve the public today; and

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WHEREAS, Areas of Shabbona Lake have been restored with prairie grasses, such as Big Blue Stem, and prairie flowers, such as purple cone flower; in addition, Shabbona Lake contains

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1 a 15-acre seasonal nesting area for migratory waterfowl, such
2 as canvasback, redhead, and pintail ducks, as well as Canada
3 geese; and

4 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake has facilities for year-round
5 picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, and winter
6 sports; and

7 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake is a pilot site for accessibility;
8 all features of the park are accessible to those with physical
9 disabilities, including 8 campsites, the fishing pier and dock,
10 dove hunting stations, a 35-acre archery deer zone,
11 concessions, and a restaurant; and

12 WHEREAS, Local members of Lions Club International have
13 held an annual Handicapped Children's Fishing Derby since 1979
14 and a cross-county snow skiing event for the visually impaired
15 - Ski for Sight - since the early 1980s; and

16 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake recently passed the 12 millionth
17 visitor and has over 425,000 visitors annually, making the park
18 the second largest tourist attraction for the area after
19 Northern Illinois University; and

20 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake is the site of numerous
21 achievements, including 4 State of Illinois Record Muskie and 2

1 State of Illinois Record Crappie catches; and

2 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake is recognized as the "Muskie Capitol
3 of Illinois" and as "Illinois' Best Fishing Lake"; and

4 WHEREAS, Visitors at Shabbona Lake can view numerous
5 species of wildlife, including whitetail deer, fox, coyote,
6 raccoon, squirrels, turkey, waterfowl, and songbirds; and

7 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake's great beauty and many
8 achievements are due in large part to the efforts of the park's
9 outstanding and dedicated volunteers and staff, and support
10 from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; therefore,
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we recognize the importance of Shabbona Lake State Park for the
15 people of the State of Illinois and thank the park's staff and
16 volunteers for their hard work in maintaining this beautiful
17 area; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 delivered to the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural
20 Resources and the Site Manager of Shabbona Lake State Park.