



HR0058

LRB098 08384 MST 38489 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois comprises part of the  
3 largest urban landscape market in the country with more than 4  
4 million urban ash trees; Illinois' tree canopy now faces a  
5 crisis due to the Emerald Ash Borer, and that will lead to a  
6 financial crisis for the State and its many municipalities; and

7           WHEREAS, Mature trees provide homeowners and  
8 municipalities tremendous environmental and economic benefits;  
9 trees reduce energy costs in the summer, play a role in  
10 rainwater management, and filter air; trees represent a  
11 quantifiable value to homeowners; conservatively 5 percent of a  
12 home's value is attributable to the trees on its property; and

13           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is now infested with the  
14 invasive species known as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB); most all  
15 urban ash trees in the State of Illinois will be exposed to EAB  
16 in the next 5 years and every ash tree not treated will expire  
17 shortly thereafter; and

18           WHEREAS, The average cost of tree removal and replacement  
19 in the State of Illinois is approximately \$1,000; this crisis  
20 will cost the State and its villages, towns, and cities \$3  
21 billion to \$4 billion over the next several years; and

1           WHEREAS, Trees can be treated for a fraction of the cost of  
2 removal and replacement; and

3           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to update its  
4 understanding of the science of treating EAB, as integrated  
5 management of EAB has evolved and improved greatly in the past  
6 5 years; and

7           WHEREAS, Leading academic researchers from The University  
8 of Illinois, Michigan State University, Purdue University and  
9 Ohio State have found insecticide treatment methods to be  
10 effective, and one treatment method to be extremely effective  
11 at preserving ash trees; and

12           WHEREAS, The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), the  
13 prestigious professional organization of practicing arborists,  
14 published in May 2012 its latest findings and recommendations  
15 on the management of the Emerald Ash Borer; the SMA paper warns  
16 municipalities of a "financial tsunami" if they are not  
17 proactive and develop an EAB management paper; and

18           WHEREAS, The SMA found that the 2 extremes of removing  
19 trees and doing nothing is neither practical nor prudent;  
20 removing trees is not financially viable for many  
21 municipalities and does great harm to home values; doing  
22 nothing puts people and property at great risk as dead trees

1 will come crashing down in an unpredictable fashion; and

2 WHEREAS, The SMA found that an integrated approach that  
3 utilizes treatment along with the removal of low-grade ash  
4 trees is the best management option; and

5 WHEREAS, The International Society Arboriculture, the  
6 premier tree care organization in the world, supports the  
7 findings and recommendations of the SMA that advocates  
8 conservation of the urban ash canopy as the most prudent and  
9 practical management option; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we urge every village, town, and city within the State of  
13 Illinois to reevaluate its EAB management plan in light of the  
14 latest facts and recommendations presented by the leading  
15 experts in the spring of 2012; specifically, municipalities  
16 should spend the little time required to evaluate EAB  
17 management options over a 20-year period utilizing readily  
18 available and online economic models from either University of  
19 Wisconsin-Stevens Point or Purdue University; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Agriculture  
21 should publicly communicate and include on its website  
22 <http://www.agr.state.il.us> the 2012 EAB Management approach

1 and explain the financial and environmental benefits to  
2 municipalities, citizens, and homeowners of that same  
3 approach.