



HR0899

LRB098 20523 GRL 56603 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Calumet region's first steel mill began operating in 1875 and for many decades prospered the community under the banner of International Harvester's mighty Wisconsin Steel Works, which crafted steel moldings for heavy vehicles that provided a strong and reliable economic engine for the national economy; and

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WHEREAS, Wisconsin Steel Works ran powerful and steady for more than a century until the decline of the domestic steel market in the early 1980s; and

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WHEREAS, The mill operated in an era that was unaware of environmental impacts on the land; and

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WHEREAS, The later-found burden of contamination prevented redevelopment of the vast swath of land set in the heart of southeast Chicago's South Deering community; and

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WHEREAS, Navistar, Inc. (formerly International Harvester) pursued and entered into a 1996 agreement with the United States Department of Commerce to assume corporate responsibility for the comprehensive remediation of the site under the guidance of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Site Remediation Program; and

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1 WHEREAS, Navistar's environmental project team conducted
2 multiple years of environmental testing, analysis, assessment,
3 planning, and implementation in support of the comprehensive
4 remedial action; and

5 WHEREAS, On December 20, 2013, the Illinois Environmental
6 Protection Agency granted the 13th and final No Further
7 Remediation letter for the respective tracts of the former
8 Wisconsin Steel Works site; and

9 WHEREAS, The remediated site has been sold for
10 redevelopment and now hosts multiple businesses that newly
11 contribute to the economic prosperity of southeast Chicago;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we recognize Navistar, Inc. for its initiative in assuming
16 responsibility for the site environmental remediation project;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we commend Navistar and its project team -
19 environmental consultant ARCADIS and environmental
20 communications specialist EnviroCom - for steadfast
21 commitment, engineering excellence, and well-attuned

1 stakeholder engagement which resulted in the remarkable
2 success of the project; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we commend the staff of the Illinois
4 Environmental Protection Agency Site Remediation Program for
5 outstanding civil service; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that the environmental
7 cleanup of the Former Wisconsin Steel Works site exemplifies a
8 high benchmark in Illinois for the collaboration of corporate
9 citizenship, federal guidance, State programming, city
10 interaction, applied technical excellence, and fully-connected
11 community relations; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that the environmental
13 remediation project offers not only a fitting epilogue for the
14 once mighty Wisconsin Steel Works, but, in great measure,
15 presents the hope and promise of a bright future for the
16 southeast Chicago community that lives to thrive again.