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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our oldest and dearest friends, Bill Luking, on June 12, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, William H. Luking was born on August 7, 1947 in Connersville, Indiana, the eldest of the 9 children of Lowell and Elizabeth McCarthy Luking; he graduated from Connersville High School in 1965, graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1969, and graduated from Northwestern University Law School in 1972; he later served his country as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Luking was one of the Senate's most knowledgeable advocates; he was a wise expert who understood State, local, and federal law; he loved his work and its focus on complex issues involving taxation, economic development, public pensions, and mass transit; and

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WHEREAS, Beginning in 1986 under the administration of Mayor Harold Washington, Bill Luking represented the City of Chicago with commitment and skill; he would go on to serve as a key advocate for the City for nearly 30 more years under Mayors Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bill Luking's talents, skills, and vast knowledge
2 helped him fight for millions of Chicagoans, conservationists,
3 and nature lovers as he represented the Chicago Public Schools,
4 the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority, the
5 City Colleges of Chicago, and - one of his favorites - the
6 Chicago Botanic Garden; and

7 WHEREAS, In his years of distinguished service, Bill Luking
8 was instrumental in the passage of some of the most significant
9 laws affecting Chicago and its landscape, including the
10 construction of the new Comiskey Park, now U.S. Cellular Field;
11 the expansion of Soldier Field; the privatization of Midway
12 Airport; strengthening the City's authority over its school
13 system; and reforms that helped preserve the solvency of
14 Chicago's pension system and the retirement security of
15 countless numbers of municipal workers; and

16 WHEREAS, Bill Luking and his firm, Luking and Associates,
17 L.L.C., were proud of their pro bono work on behalf of the
18 Chicago Christian Industrial League, Tuesday's Child, the
19 Howard Area Community Association, the Chicago Children's
20 Advocacy Center, and the Southwest Youth Collaborative; and

21 WHEREAS, Bill Luking was well known and respected by the
22 members and staff of the Illinois Senate for his great
23 knowledge of national, State, and local law, his genial and

1 honest nature, and his unwavering dedication to our State and
2 its citizens; whether they were advocating on the same side of
3 an issue or in opposition to him, his peers regarded him as an
4 intelligent, forthright, and honest advocate who paved the way
5 for legislative success for many generations of newcomers to
6 the Illinois State Capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, Bill Luking was universally regarded as a
8 gentleman and a scholar, as well as a man of warmth and humor;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Bill Luking is survived by his siblings, Laura
11 (Peter) Jamison, Meg Luking, Mary Anne Morris, Beth Luking,
12 Gene (Debbie) Luking, Joe (Johnnie) Luking, Charlene (Larry)
13 Wood, and Rosemary (Jay) Card; 13 nieces and nephews; 13
14 great-nieces and great-nephews; and his friend and companion,
15 Claire Manning; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
18 family and friends, mourn the passing of Bill Luking; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Bill Luking as a symbol of our deep
22 sympathies and great esteem.