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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, More than half of Illinois residents receive their
3 water from groundwater wells; this makes Illinois groundwater a
4 valuable natural resource that needs to be protected; and

5 WHEREAS, Next to breathable air, groundwater may be the
6 next most important resource necessary for human life; and

7 WHEREAS, Agricultural irrigation is the single largest use
8 of groundwater, nourishing much of the produce and livestock
9 that fills our grocery stores; and

10 WHEREAS, Groundwater can be found beneath the surface
11 virtually anywhere, making it possible to live in rural or even
12 remote places where public water systems do not exist; and

13 WHEREAS, Groundwater makes it possible for ecosystems
14 teeming with life to exist as it supplies plants and animals
15 with life-giving water and often meets critical water needs in
16 the midst of drought because of its abundance beneath the
17 surface of the earth; and

18 WHEREAS, Spring is a good season to have an annual water
19 well checkup before the peak water use season begins according
20 to the National Ground Water Association and the Illinois

1 Association of Groundwater Professionals (IAGP); and

2 WHEREAS, An abandoned well as defined by the Illinois Water
3 Well Construction Code is a water or monitoring well that is no
4 longer used to supply water, or that is in such a state of
5 disrepair that the well or boring has the potential for
6 transmitting contaminants into an aquifer or otherwise
7 threatens the public health or safety; furthermore, the code
8 requires that an abandoned well be properly sealed within 30
9 days after it is abandoned and no longer in use; and

10 WHEREAS, The IAGP encourages the Illinois Department of
11 Public Health and units of local government to identify the
12 number and location of abandoned wells, educate communities of
13 the need for building demolition policies and procedures to
14 include inspection for abandoned wells, provide evaluation
15 processes to determine appropriateness of well for non-potable
16 use, support annual inspections by local government of well
17 non-potable use, build awareness and raise funds to provide
18 help and support well-sealing, and to recognize private wells
19 as a viable means to reduce and conserve potable water for
20 non-potable use; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate March
23 8-14, 2015 as "Illinois Groundwater Awareness Week"; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor to issue a proclamation
3 calling on the people of the great State of Illinois to observe
4 the week by learning more about groundwater and its importance
5 in peoples' lives and to encourage them to act in ways that
6 value and protect this resource.