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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 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, The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) and
19 the Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals (IAGP)
20 encourages annual water well checkups in the spring before the

1 peak water use season begins; and

2 WHEREAS, An abandoned well as defined by the Illinois Water
3 Well Construction Code is a water or monitoring well which is
4 no longer used to supply water, or which 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 used; and

10 WHEREAS, IAGP encourages the Illinois Department of Public
11 Health and local units of government to identify the number and
12 location of abandoned wells; educate communities for the need
13 for building demolition policies and procedures to include
14 inspection for abandoned wells; provide evaluation processes
15 to determine appropriateness of a well for non-potable use;
16 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 recognize private wells as a
19 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 December
23 4-10, 2016 "Illinois Groundwater Awareness Week"; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge the citizens of Illinois to observe
3 the week by learning more about groundwater and its importance
4 to lives and act in ways that value and protect the resource.