



HR0990

LRB100 21567 MST 38565 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is ranked fifth in economic size in the United States and is one of the top 25 economies in the world; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois agriculture and agribusiness are among the most efficient and productive in the world; they contribute \$121 billion annually to the Illinois economy and support over 400,000 Illinois jobs; and

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WHEREAS, Every Illinois farmer feeds more than 150 people per year; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has fertile soils, favorable growing conditions, and a vast network of natural and man-made transportation assets that allows its farmers and food companies to efficiently and cost effectively compete in grain, meat, and processed food markets; and

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WHEREAS, Exports are critical to agriculture, and farmers and agribusiness have worked diligently for decades to grow overseas markets; agriculture is one of the few U.S. industries that consistently has a positive trade balance; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois farmers count on sales to export markets

1 for more than 20% of their income, as 95% of the world's
2 population lives outside the U.S.; and

3 WHEREAS, Illinois is the leading producer of soybeans,
4 producing 612 million bushels in 2017; it exports nearly 60% of
5 our state's soybean production with a value of \$3.5 annually;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Pork production is an important economic engine
8 for the State of Illinois and nearly 26% of the pork produced
9 in the United States is exported; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois is a leading producer and exporter of
11 corn; one out of every three bushels of U.S. corn is exported;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Grain prices remain at or below the cost of
14 production and net farm income in the U.S. has fallen by 50%
15 since 2013; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 re-affirm our commitment to the agricultural community in the
19 State of Illinois and toward the increase in agricultural
20 exports to other parts of the world; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we remain vigilant in ensuring that the U.S.
2 remain a leader by continuing to expand market opportunities
3 for U.S. agriculture and other industries; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 delivered to the Illinois Congressional Delegation, the
6 President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of
7 Agriculture, and the U.S. Trade Ambassador.