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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is public policy of the State of Illinois to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations; and

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WHEREAS, It is the duty of the Illinois General Assembly to implement and enforce this constitutionally mandated right of the citizens of Illinois to a healthful environment; and

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WHEREAS, The citizens of Illinois need clean waterways as a source of drinking water, for agricultural and industrial uses, as a healthful habitat for aquatic species, and for the enjoyment of recreational activities, including fishing, swimming, paddling, and boating; and

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WHEREAS, Excessive levels of nutrients are degrading the quality of streams, rivers, and lakes within the State of Illinois and contributing to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico; and

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WHEREAS, The 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan called on the State of Illinois to produce a plan to reduce the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen carried in rivers throughout the State and to the Gulf of Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, The State's Environmental Protection Agency and
2 Department of Agriculture collaborated with a Policy Working
3 Group of academia, environmental non-profits, representatives
4 of federal, state, and local agencies, wastewater treatment
5 professionals, and the agricultural community to develop the
6 Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy in 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, The Strategy's Policy Working Group released its
8 first biennial report on the implementation of the Strategy in
9 2017, documenting the substantial financial and staff resource
10 efforts to educate all citizens of Illinois about nutrient
11 loss, including through in-person meetings, workshops, and
12 field days, as well as communication platforms to reach all
13 stakeholders in Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, The Strategy's biennial report also documented
15 significant collaborative efforts to implement the Strategy,
16 including through impressive resource investments in research,
17 the installation of agricultural conservation practices across
18 the State, and adoption of new technology to reduce nutrient
19 levels in our waterways from wastewater discharges and runoff
20 from agricultural and urban lands; and

21 WHEREAS, The Strategy's biennial report found a ten percent
22 reduction in nitrogen loads, but a 17 percent increase in
23 phosphorus loads; and

1 WHEREAS, The Strategy sets a milestone to reduce nitrogen
2 loads by 15 percent and phosphorus loads by 25 percent by 2025
3 from baseline levels (1980-1996); and

4 WHEREAS, The Strategy's goal is to reduce both nitrogen and
5 phosphorus loads by 45 percent by 2035; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support the Nutrient
8 Loss Reduction Strategy and the work of stakeholders on the
9 continued implementation of the Strategy as the State of
10 Illinois and its citizens move forward in this important
11 effort; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we encourage the agencies and their partners
13 in implementing the Strategy to regularly communicate with the
14 General Assembly and seek their support on activities and
15 long-term programs that would help further their work and
16 attain the Strategy's goals.