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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The waterways system of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers is a vital avenue of commerce, moving over \$16 billion worth of material to and from the State of Illinois each year; and

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WHEREAS, 75% of Illinois agricultural products produced for the export market are transported via the waterways system, keeping them more competitive on the world market; and

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WHEREAS, Billions of dollars in raw materials that supply Illinois industry and support tens of thousands of jobs are shipped to manufacturing facilities via the waterways system; and

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WHEREAS, Each year, barges on Illinois waterways help reduce congestion on Illinois highways by transporting the equivalent of 4.4 million semi-trailer trucks worth of materials; and

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WHEREAS, Transporting one ton of material by barge on the waterways system produces four times less CO2 emissions than by truck; and

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WHEREAS, Shipping via waterways saves other businesses

1 approximately \$7 billion per year in transportation costs; and

2 WHEREAS, The waterways shipping industry directly employs  
3 over 4,000 men and women in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, The locks and dams that make these waterways  
5 navigable were constructed over 70 years ago and have become  
6 both technologically obsolete and significantly deteriorated;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The failure of just one lock along the system  
9 stops all commerce along that river; and

10 WHEREAS, Such a lock failure would cause a significant  
11 increase in highway congestion, negatively impact highway  
12 safety, and worsen existing pollution problems; and

13 WHEREAS, Such a lock failure would cause thousands of  
14 workers to sit idle, resulting in higher costs and shipping  
15 problems for agriculture; and

16 WHEREAS, Plans are in place for a comprehensive  
17 modernization of the national lock and dam and waterways  
18 system, including along the Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio  
19 Rivers; and

1           WHEREAS, Such a modernization program would result in a  
2 major investment in Illinois' infrastructure, supporting  
3 thousands of construction jobs, improving the shipping of  
4 goods, and providing environmental benefits; and

5           WHEREAS, The Illinois Chamber of Commerce, with the support  
6 of a coalition of business, labor, and agriculture  
7 organizations, including the Illinois Corn Growers and the  
8 Illinois Councils of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and  
9 Joiners, have issued a report calling for support for the  
10 modernization of the waterways system; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we encourage the  
13 Illinois congressional delegation to support efforts to  
14 undertake modernizations projects to improve the waterways  
15 system in order to support the State's economic growth, reduce  
16 highway congestion, and reduce pollution; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That we pledge to work with the Illinois  
18 congressional delegation to further our shared goal of waterway  
19 modernization; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 presented to the members of the Illinois congressional  
22 delegation.