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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Merrill C. Meigs Field Airport was a single-strip airport on Northerly Island in Chicago that began operation on December 10, 1948; by 1955, Meigs Field became the country's busiest single-strip airport, generating 40,000 flights every year and earning over \$450,000,000 annually; and

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WHEREAS, On March 31, 2003, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley ordered private crews to destroy the Meigs Field runway in the middle of the night, bulldozing large X-shaped gouges into the runway surface and rendering the airstrip unusable; and

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WHEREAS, Repairing and reopening Meigs Field could spur great economic growth in the City of Chicago and State of Illinois; advances in technology and proper administration could increase traffic at Meigs to over 50,000 flights every year and bring in over \$600,000,000 annually, which would serve as a great boon to the people of this State during these sagging economic times; and

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WHEREAS, Reopening Meigs Field would also relieve the congestion problems routinely seen at Midway Airport and O'Hare International Airport and would lead to the creation of many jobs; and

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1 WHEREAS, Most people who traveled to Meigs Field came to
2 the City of Chicago to conduct business or to attend
3 conventions within the city; reopening the airport would
4 reestablish this economic opportunity and aid the various
5 convention centers throughout Chicago, including McCormick
6 Place; and

7 WHEREAS, The revitalization and reopening of Meigs Field
8 represents a golden opportunity for the people of the City of
9 Chicago and the State of Illinois to improve the economic
10 climate of the City of Chicago and the State, create countless
11 new jobs for Illinois workers, and to bring an iconic symbol
12 back to the City of Chicago; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the City of
15 Chicago to repair and reopen Meigs Field Airport as soon as
16 possible in order to bring much-needed resources and jobs to
17 this State; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and each member of
20 the Chicago City Council.