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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In the spring of 2011, the retail prices of motor fuels in Illinois have touched or hit record levels; and

WHEREAS, On May 4, 2011, the average sales price of gasoline-based motor fuel in Illinois was \$4.31 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, These retail prices include the substantial burden of motor fuel excise taxes, State sales taxes, local sales taxes, and environmental remediation taxes, which have been added to the underlying burden of worldwide crude oil prices; and

WHEREAS, The current price of crude oil is in excess of \$110 per 42-gallon barrel, driven upward by political upheavals in the Middle East and adjacent regions of the Eastern Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, The high price of motor fuels threatens prospects for Illinois employment and economic recovery by diverting consumer spending from discretionary purchases to motor fuel; demand for motor fuel is highly price-inelastic, as once people take up residence in a house, they are tied in to a pattern of driving to and from the places where they work, shop, and visit their relatives and friends, and cannot easily change their

1 patterns; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we urge Governor Pat Quinn to take action immediately to
5 comprehensively lower the price of motor fuel in all geographic
6 regions of Illinois on a time frame adequate to prevent
7 Illinois falling into renewed recessionary conditions; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That we urge Governor Quinn and President Barack
10 Obama to take immediate steps to reverse their current policies
11 regarding the price of motor fuel and to cooperate on new
12 policies to increase motor fuel supplies in Illinois, reduce
13 pressure on Illinois motor fuel prices, and inform the Illinois
14 public of the steps being taken to reduce price pressure on
15 motor fuel; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That, based upon the current political upheavals
17 in the Middle East, consequent disruptions to the world supply
18 of crude oil, and negative consequences of these disruptions to
19 the fragile U.S. economic recovery, we urge President Obama and
20 the United States Department of Energy to release part of the
21 U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve for summer 2011 refinery
22 throughput and consumer end-use; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That, based upon the current record or
2 near-record price of motor fuel in Illinois, we urge the
3 President of the United States and the Administrator of the
4 United States Environmental Protection Agency to suspend
5 implementation of all federal Clean Air Act non-attainment
6 rules that affect the chemical composition and market price of
7 motor fuel sold in the Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis,
8 Missouri metropolitan areas; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we commend our neighbor country, the nation
10 of Canada, for its aggressive work in expanding crude oil
11 production from one of the largest under-utilized sources of
12 fossil fuels in the world, the oil sands deposits of the
13 province of Alberta, which possess estimated reserves of 1.7
14 trillion barrels of bitumen, from which crude oil can be
15 manufactured; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we call upon United States oil refiners to
17 continue their work to rebuild their refineries to refine
18 bitumen-based crude oil into consumer petroleum products and
19 commend the example provided by Canada to those United States
20 policymakers who have the power to decide upon policies that
21 govern the drilling, exploitation, and enjoyment of crude oil
22 resources here in the United States; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That we direct the Illinois Commission on

1 Government Forecasting and Accountability to conduct an
2 objective, non-political examination of our policy of charging
3 "ad valorem" Illinois sales taxes on motor fuel, thereby
4 raising these prices well above world spot market prices for
5 gasoline, and to report its findings to the Speaker of the
6 Illinois House of Representatives, the Illinois House
7 Republican Leader, the President of the Illinois Senate, and
8 the Illinois Senate Republican Leader, and for this study to be
9 concluded and the report transferred no later than September
10 30, 2011; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 presented to the President of the United States, the Secretary
13 of the United States Department of Energy, the Administrator of
14 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the
15 Governor of Illinois, and the executive director of the
16 Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and
17 Accountability.