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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District was
3 organized in 1971 under the Conservation District Act; and

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District exists
5 to preserve, restore, and manage natural areas and open spaces
6 for their intrinsic value and for the benefits to present and
7 future generations; and

8

WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District's vision
9 is to have all residents develop a personal responsibility for
10 their local environment and to gain a greater appreciation for
11 the natural world; and

12

WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District is
13 governed by a seven-member volunteer Board of Trustees and
14 stewarded by 80 employees and more than 783 volunteers, many of
15 whom are respected and experienced leaders in the parks,
16 recreation, and conservation fields; and

17

WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the McHenry County
18 Conservation District has focused on purchasing land,
19 restoring wildlife habitats, developing sustainable sites,
20 improving organizational efficiencies, implementing cost
21 saving measures, producing environmental education programs

1 and events, and outdoor recreation experiences; and

2 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District manages
3 more than 25,000 acres of open space, 33 sites open to the
4 public for recreational access, including 115 miles of hiking
5 trails, 41 miles of biking trails, 15 miles of canoeing, 20
6 miles of horse trails, 19 fishing sites, 23 picnic shelters,
7 and 6 campgrounds; and

8 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District
9 conservation areas, sites, and facilities are an economic
10 driver and catalyst for sustainability and growth in McHenry
11 County; and

12 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District promotes
13 environmental stewardship through an active volunteer program,
14 the People and Nature Certificate Program, and multiple
15 educational programs and workshops; and

16 WHEREAS, The County Conservation District promotes sound
17 environmental practices through the development of public
18 sites and through the establishment of ongoing green practices
19 within agency operations; and

20 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District embodies
21 environmental stewardship in its core mission and is recognized

1 as a premier public agency in preserving, protecting and
2 managing open space in Illinois, the region, and the country;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has been
5 recognized by the United States Department of the Interior for
6 their recent leadership role in establishing the Hackmatack
7 National Wildlife Refuge as a bi-state national wildlife refuge
8 within 100 miles of Chicago and 50 miles of Milwaukee,
9 Wisconsin; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Park and Recreation Association is
11 the leading advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement
12 of public parks, recreation, and conservation with more than
13 30,000 members and representing public spaces in urban
14 communities, rural settings, and everything in between; and

15 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has been
16 awarded the 2013 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award by
17 the National Park and Recreation Association, which recognizes
18 a parks and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in
19 environmental stewardship on a national level; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date
22 of October 29, 2013 as McHenry County Conservation District Day

1 in the State of Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we recognize and commend the administration
3 and employees of the McHenry County Conservation District for
4 receiving the 2013 National Recreation and Park Association's
5 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award and wish them
6 continued success in the future; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 delivered to the McHenry County Conservation District as a
9 symbol of our esteem and respect.