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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The game of baseball is the "National Pastime"; it
3 is an institution that transcends the realm of sport and has
4 become an integral part of the American experience; the game,
5 and those players that make it such an enjoyable and communal
6 event, has been a part of the American way of life for well
7 over a century; and

8 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has been a proud producer of
9 talent and supporter of the game of baseball, standing as the
10 proud home of 2 of the most distinguished franchises in Major
11 League Baseball (MLB) history, the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago
12 White Sox; and

13 WHEREAS, Players including former Chicago Cub, Joe Girardi
14 (from Peoria), former White Sox, Jim Thome (from Peoria),
15 former New York Yankee, Rickey Henderson (Chicago native),
16 former St. Louis Cardinal, Jason Isringhausen (from Brighton),
17 and current Washington National, Jayson Werth, born in the
18 State's capital of Springfield, are only but a few Illinoisans
19 who have contributed to the game over the years, and they
20 represent the importance that the game has on baseball fans and
21 enthusiasts here in the Land of Lincoln; and

22 WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox

1 organizations, being 2 of the most historic teams in baseball,
2 have contributed much to the game and have had the privilege to
3 have a number of their players recognized in the National
4 Baseball Hall of Fame located in Cooperstown, New York; and

5 WHEREAS, It is understood that induction into the Hall of
6 Fame is one of the most incredible rewards and honors that can
7 be bestowed upon an MLB player; the Hall represents all of the
8 principles that the game of baseball embodies and demands of
9 those players who compete for a chance to, one day, have the
10 opportunity to win a World Series and be admitted into
11 Cooperstown; and

12 WHEREAS, The game of baseball is also a game that is played
13 by the rules, and the "Big Leaguers" that play the game are
14 expected to play by those rules; nevertheless, those rules and
15 regulations are, at times, presented an exceptional case - one
16 that needs to be considered in more than a standard, uniform
17 manner; and

18 WHEREAS, In recent times, the integrity of the game of
19 baseball has been sullied, adulterated by the introduction of
20 performance enhancing drugs (PEDs); the use of PEDs has
21 introduced an added challenge to the game, resulting in certain
22 users of those substances receiving an unfair advantage on the
23 field; this abuse of the rules of the game is something that

1 owners and players, both past and present, will continue to
2 deal with; and

3 WHEREAS, Former MLB Commissioner Bud Selig met this problem
4 head-on and took measures that ultimately resulted in new
5 restrictions and steeper penalties for those players found in
6 violation of the revised rules on the use of PEDs; yet, there
7 are players who have been found guilty of abusing these
8 restricted substances but remain eligible to be considered for
9 induction into the Hall of Fame; and

10 WHEREAS, The punishment for players found guilty of having
11 used PEDs, some of whom hold ground-breaking records, have
12 devoted many years to our nation's pastime, and have fans
13 across the country and world, is fair; and

14 WHEREAS, There remains one exceptional case before MLB -
15 the case of Pete Rose, otherwise known as "Charlie Hustle"; and

16 WHEREAS, Pete Rose, born Peter Edward Rose, is one of the
17 most remarkable individuals to have ever played the game, as
18 his career statistics substantiate; he is also one of the most
19 popular Cincinnati Reds player to ever have put on the uniform,
20 most notably as part of the "Big Red Machine"; and

21 WHEREAS, Pete Rose is a career .303 hitter; in his 14,053

1 at-bats, he totaled 160 home runs, 1,314 runs-batted-in, and
2 2,165 runs scored; he holds the MLB record for total hits with
3 4,256; and

4 WHEREAS, A Cincinnati native, Pete Rose is a hometown hero
5 who brought more than 2 decades of entertainment, excitement,
6 and prestige to "The Queen City"; among his many achievements,
7 he won the Rookie of the Year Award in 1963, 3 World Series
8 titles, and one Most Valuable Player award; he won 3 batting
9 titles, 2 Gold Gloves, and took part in 17 All-Star Games as a
10 first, second, and third baseman and left and right-fielder;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Pete Rose served as manager for the Cincinnati
13 Reds from 1984 to 1989, accumulating a record of 426 wins and
14 388 losses; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1989, MLB Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti
16 issued a permanent, lifetime ban on Pete Rose after accusations
17 arose surrounding his involvement in illicit gambling,
18 outlawed by MLB's Rule 21; and

19 WHEREAS, A fault was committed, and Pete Rose has since
20 admitted to having illegally bet on his team as manager of the
21 Cincinnati Reds; the illegality of his actions are undeniable
22 and his punishment was deserved; and

1 WHEREAS, The game that Americans love and enjoy needs to be
2 respected and cannot be subject to misconduct by any player,
3 manager, or owner; every team should have the same access to
4 the opportunity of winning, and all games should be played on
5 the level; and

6 WHEREAS, Consideration for the National Baseball Hall of
7 Fame has been granted to players that have been linked to the
8 abuse of banned substances; this decision, while controversial
9 and the subject of much debate among current and former
10 baseball players and sports writers, has been decided to be
11 fair treatment given to otherwise guilty players that committed
12 a wrong against the institution of baseball; and

13 WHEREAS, Players such as Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Mark
14 McGwire, and Sammy Sosa have been granted enough of a reprieve
15 that they have had, at the very least, an opportunity to be
16 considered for induction into baseball's most sacred
17 fraternity; they have been signaled and reprimanded for their
18 past actions; yet, they have been allowed to have their "day in
19 court"; Pete Rose's career and legacy should earn him the same
20 leniency and treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Speaking before a crowd of devoted fans and
22 onlookers in Normal, where he was invited to act as "Manager

1 for a Day" for the Normal CornBelters of the independent
2 Illinois Frontier League, Pete Rose sincerely stated, "There
3 comes a time when you see all your friends go in the Hall of
4 Fame. To think that you could be a member of the Hall of Fame,
5 it would be goosebumpy. A Hall of Fame is more for your fans
6 and your family. And a lot of the people responsible for me
7 being a baseball player aren't here [any] more."; He added, "I
8 got 6 grandkids that would love to go to Cooperstown. I got 2
9 daughters and 2 sons who would love to go to Cooperstown ... It
10 would mean a lot to them. It would mean a lot to anybody".; and

11 WHEREAS, Although Pete Rose committed an injustice against
12 his fans, players, and Major League Baseball, the punishment
13 should be reconsidered; he is a legendary sports figure who
14 commands the respect of even the harshest of his critics; and

15 WHEREAS, With the permission of Major League Baseball, Pete
16 Rose was recognized by the Cincinnati Reds organization on
17 September 11, 2010 for the 25th anniversary of his 4,192nd hit,
18 which put him past the previous hits-leader, Ty Cobb, and, most
19 recently, during the 2015 All-Star Game in Cincinnati, Ohio on
20 July 14, 2015; and

21 WHEREAS, No greater recognition can be offered to Pete Rose
22 than allowing his name to be considered by the voting members
23 of the Baseball Writers' Association of America for induction

1 into the National Baseball Hall of Fame after his 26th year of
2 a lifetime ban from the sport that was, and continues to be,
3 his livelihood; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 urge Major League Baseball Commissioner, Rob Manfred, to
7 reconsider the case of Pete Rose and work towards reinstating
8 him as a testament to his legendary achievements and
9 contribution to the game of baseball; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 delivered to Pete Rose; MLB Commissioner, Rob Manfred; Chicago
12 Cubs owner, Thomas Ricketts; Chicago White Sox Chairman, Jerry
13 Reinsdorf; Cincinnati Reds Chief Executive Officer, Robert
14 "Bob" Castellini; and the National Baseball Hall of Fame in
15 Cooperstown, New York.