



SR0249

LRB104 13275 LAW 25500 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Channel Cat on the occasion of its 30th
4 anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, In 1994, Executive Director Kathy Wine of River
6 Action, a local nonprofit group dedicated to fostering
7 environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the
8 Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad Cities
9 region, received a grant from the Riverboat Development
10 Authority to conduct a feasibility study of a water taxi on the
11 Mississippi River; and

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WHEREAS, A committee was formed that included River
13 Action, city planners from Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa and
14 Moline, Illinois, the local transit authority MetroLINK, a
15 riverboat captain, a retired U.S. Coast Guard employee, and a
16 local non-gaming riverboat company, the Celebration Belle; and

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WHEREAS, In lieu of moving forward with a planning study,
18 the committee proactively purchased an aluminum pontoon boat
19 with limited seating and began planning for service on the
20 Mississippi River, leading to the launch of a single pontoon
21 boat on the weekend of July 4, 1995; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1998, under the direction of CEO Jeff Nelson
2 of MetroLINK, the local transit authority assumed operation of
3 the Channel Cat as a public transit, passenger ferryboat
4 option for the region; and

5 WHEREAS, Since that time, MetroLINK has received Federal
6 Highway Administration and Federal Transportation
7 Administration discretionary grant awards, resulting in the
8 purchase of three open air, 47-foot, 24-net-ton military
9 transport barges that are each powered by two 250-horsepower
10 John Deere engines using B20 biodiesel fuel, are fully ADA
11 accessible, and possess an aluminum hull, a deck, a seating
12 bench for 49 passengers, and room for seven bicycles;
13 additional grant awards also resulted in the construction of
14 four new and improved docks, two being located in Moline and
15 one each in Davenport and East Moline, which provided wider
16 passenger queue areas, ADA accessibility, signage, and
17 improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the riverfront, as
18 well as the future addition of two battery electric
19 ferryboats; and

20 WHEREAS, MetroLINK has also expanded the Channel Cat
21 passenger ferryboat service, increased ridership, and provided
22 public access to the wildlife, history, culture, and geology
23 of the Mississippi River and the Quad Cities; and

1 WHEREAS, MetroLINK and the Channel Cat have received the
2 Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce Multi-Modal Award, the River
3 Action Eddy Award, and various community recognitions; and

4 WHEREAS, The Channel Cat passenger ferryboat service has
5 had a tremendous impact on the Quad Cities economy, providing
6 over 1,000,000 rides to date while offering riders an
7 alternative mode of transportation to cross the Mississippi
8 River and access to two states, three downtowns, and
9 riverfront pedestrian and bicycling trails; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
12 Channel Cat on its 30th anniversary in providing critical
13 passenger ferryboat service to the Quad Cities, and we
14 acknowledge Executive Director Kathy Wine of River Action and
15 CEO/Managing Director Jeff Nelson of MetroLINK for their
16 leadership, innovation, and commitment to the Mississippi
17 River and the Quad Cities riverfronts; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to Executive Director Kathy Wine of River Action and
20 CEO/Managing Director Jeff Nelson of MetroLINK as an
21 expression of our esteem and respect.