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LRB104 16108 ECR 29420 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon is recognized as a defining
3 Midwest rock band, influencing music history and culture while
4 representing the spirit of its Illinois roots; and

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WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon was founded in 1967 by Neal
6 Doughty and Alan Gratzner, who met at the University of
7 Illinois Urbana-Champaign the year prior; inspired by a
8 transportation history class, the band's name comes from the
9 REO Speedwagon, a 1915 truck designed by Ransom Eli Olds; and

10

WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon began performing at campus events
11 and local bars, quickly igniting a passionate following that
12 grew into national acclaim; the band's electrifying presence
13 and relentless touring soon led to packed arenas and theaters
14 coast to coast, marking the rise of a legendary Illinois-born
15 rock phenomenon; and

16

WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon gained national attention in the
17 1970s with a string of successful albums and many energetic
18 live performances, and the band's songs dominated FM radio
19 during the 1980s; the group continued to electrify audiences
20 well into the 21st century, sustaining a devoted fan base
21 across generations; and

1 WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon was inducted into the inaugural
2 class of the Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66, a
3 historic center dedicated to preserving and celebrating the
4 rich musical legacy of the Prairie State, on June 11, 2021; as
5 a trailblazer of Midwest rock, the band's induction honors its
6 profound influence on American music history, its enduring
7 connection to Illinois, and its role in shaping the sound and
8 spirit of generations; and

9 WHEREAS, REO Speedwagon honored its extraordinary legacy
10 with a final concert performance in June 2025, commemorating
11 nearly six decades of global impact and musical excellence;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, From their humble beginnings in Champaign to
14 their rise as icons of American rock, the members of REO
15 Speedwagon proudly carried the spirit of Illinois to stages
16 around the world, forever linking their band to the cultural
17 heartbeat and musical legacy of the State; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize rock band
20 REO Speedwagon on its nearly six decades of legendary musical
21 and cultural impact in the State of Illinois and across the
22 world; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to REO Speedwagon as a symbol of our esteem and
3 respect.