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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The cost of construction of new state of the art professional sport stadiums has increased over time; the cost of recently built state of the art professional football stadiums has often exceeded \$1 billion and obliterated original financial estimates; these stadiums are funded through a variety of methods, including private investors as well as taxpayer funding from state and local governments; and

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WHEREAS, Public funding has been used as a tactic for professional sports teams to leverage state and local governments against each other in order to get a better deal on stadium financing; and

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WHEREAS, Low income and minority communities in Illinois have been historically underfunded and have lacked sufficient investment; and

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WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the need to use taxpayer dollars to reinvest in communities, health care, schools, and infrastructure; and

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WHEREAS, Public funding has been used in the construction or maintenance of most stadiums in the National Football League; only SoFi Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Rams and

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1 Chargers, and MetLife Stadium, home of the New York Giants and
2 Jets, were completed with 100% private funding; recently, over
3 \$750 million in public funds was used to finance Allegiant
4 Stadium in Las Vegas, and \$498 million in public funds was used
5 to finance US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis; and

6 WHEREAS, Public funding has also been used for
7 professional baseball, basketball, and soccer stadiums; for
8 example, Cincinnati taxpayers funded over 86% of the Red's
9 Great American Ball Park; and

10 WHEREAS, There is no assurance that residents of a
11 taxpayer-funded stadium will remain at their new home; history
12 has shown that professional sports clubs move across country
13 lines as in MLB's Montreal Expos moving and becoming the
14 Washington Nationals, state lines as in the NFL's Oakland/Los
15 Angeles Raiders moving from California to Nevada and the NFL's
16 St. Louis Rams moving from Missouri to California, and
17 intrastate relocations as well as in MLS's Chicago Fire
18 leaving their soccer-specific stadium in Bridgeview to return
19 to Chicago's Soldier Field; and

20 WHEREAS, As Illinois edges closer and closer to financial
21 solvency, we cannot afford to spend taxpayer funds on stadiums
22 when funding for critical social services remains uncertain;
23 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 the General Assembly is urged to take all necessary steps to
4 ensure that no state or local taxpayer money is used in the
5 construction of new professional sport stadiums.