



HR0538

LRB103 36204 MST 66297 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States government, led by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in collaboration with state governments created an immense network of interstate highways that linked the vast majority of the nation in meaningful ways through the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956; and

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WHEREAS, The construction of the interstate highway system was declared completed in 1992 after 36 years of construction and \$114 billion spent, which is equivalent to \$558 billion in 2021; and

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WHEREAS, The United States government paid for 90% of the expressways while states provided the remaining 10%; and

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WHEREAS, In exchange for providing the vast majority of the funding, the United States government dictated the route of the interstate highway system; and

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WHEREAS, With this control of the layout, the United States government focused the route through dense metropolitan and urban areas; and

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WHEREAS, Although the interstate highway system radically connected populations, underprivileged communities have been

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1 bifurcated and isolated by its creation and the route
2 placement; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal Department of Transportation
4 estimates that 475,000 households and more than one million
5 people were displaced nationwide because of federally funded
6 roadway construction; and

7 WHEREAS, This separation has resulted in a long list of
8 unintended consequences, including, but not limited to, the
9 creation of gang turfs, loss of community spaces, the
10 separation of families, negative economic impacts, and a
11 profound emotional footprint; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois played a role in the funding of the
13 interstate highway system; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois has the mandate to rectify inequity when
15 it presents itself; and

16 WHEREAS, Numerous cities across the nation have
17 successfully employed expressway lids to correct the
18 unfairness of the placement of the interstate highway system
19 and capture its many benefits; and

20 WHEREAS, Expressway lids provide a cost efficient way to

1 reconnect communities healthily and efficiently; and

2 WHEREAS, Expressway lids also provide an opportunity to
3 create more space for the construction of parks, community
4 centers, water storage, and housing while reducing both air
5 and noise pollution; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we recognize the need to reunite these communities split by
9 the creation of the interstate highway system; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance of expressway
12 lids as a partial solution to that problem; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois should utilize
14 federal resources, in partnership with state agencies and
15 local entities, to begin reconnecting these communities with,
16 among other things, expressway lids.