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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois recognize and honor the 751st year of Lithuania's statehood, and the 86th year of Lithuania's independence as a democracy which was established on February 16, 1918, in Lithuania's historic capital, Vilnius; and

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WHEREAS, Lithuania has made significant progress in developing a stable democracy and free market economy during the 14 years since it overthrew, through a peaceful democratic movement, an illegal foreign occupation by the former Soviet Union; and

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WHEREAS, The United States never recognized the forced incorporation and illegal annexation of Lithuania by the former Soviet Union in June, 1940, and continued to maintain diplomatic relations with the legal representatives of independent Lithuania; and

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WHEREAS, Lithuania has received invitations and is expected to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a defensive alliance of Western democracies, in May of 2004, as well as the European Union, a common market of Western democracies; and

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WHEREAS, Lithuanian military units are serving together with American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq as allies in the war on global terrorism; and in Bosnia and Kosovo in peacekeeping missions; and

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WHEREAS, The government and parliament of the Russian Federation have consistently opposed Lithuania's re-integration with Western democracies and encumbered Lithuanian-Russian relations by refusing to ratify border treaties, demanding visa-free travel through Lithuania's

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1 territory for both civilian and military traffic, undermining  
2 Lithuania's full participation in NATO by opposing the basing  
3 of NATO troops and equipment on Lithuania's territory, for a  
4 very considerable time denying Lithuania's Mazeikiu Nafta oil  
5 refinery a reliable supply of crude oil, and imposing double  
6 tariffs on Lithuanian imports; and

7 WHEREAS, The partially-privatized Russian oil company,  
8 LUKoil, and the Russian government refuse to open their oil  
9 drilling site in the Baltic Sea 22 km off the coast of  
10 Lithuania, known as "D-6", to international inspection, and  
11 refuse to cooperate with the Lithuanian government in  
12 developing an effective plan to minimize the effects of the  
13 United States military personnel as part of a broader NATO  
14 commitment; we urge Russia to adopt a more cooperative policy  
15 towards Lithuania and its ally, the United States; therefore,  
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the government  
19 of the Russian Federation and the Russian oil company LUKoil to  
20 open up its drilling site in the Baltic Sea, known as D-6, off  
21 the coast of Lithuania for inspection by international  
22 organizations and Lithuanian authorities, and to develop a  
23 comprehensive plan with Lithuania and other concerned states to  
24 deal with any environmental pollution caused by the oil  
25 drilling and production at the site; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That we urge government officials, the  
27 judiciary, and the media in Lithuania to address the current  
28 political crisis surrounding the office of the President in  
29 Lithuania in a forthright and transparent manner that will  
30 serve to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law  
31 in Lithuania; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to President George W. Bush, each member of the  
2 Illinois congressional delegation, the embassies of Lithuania  
3 and the Russian Federation, and to the national office of the  
4 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.