



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In one of the greatest engineering achievements of  
3 the 20th Century, the City of Chicago reversed the flow of the  
4 Chicago River in the year 1900 so that Lake Michigan could  
5 remain a pure source of drinking water, free from untreated  
6 sewage; and

7 WHEREAS, The Chicago region enjoys some of the cleanest,  
8 highest quality, and best-tasting tap water of any major  
9 metropolitan area in the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The health of migratory birds and fish habitat,  
11 water-based tourism, and local use of the beaches of Lake  
12 Michigan depend on the purity of the water of Lake Michigan;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The flow of runoff from heavy rain events into  
15 sewage treatment systems can be greatly reduced through the use  
16 and employment of wetland reservoirs, native vegetation  
17 planted along streams and riverbanks, and effective flood and  
18 water supply planning; and

19 WHEREAS, The current proposal put forth by the United  
20 States Environmental Protection Agency for the sanctioned  
21 "blending" of untreated sewage with stormwater runoff that will  
22 flow directly into Lake Michigan in the event of a heavy rain  
23 will lead to increased occurrence of hepatitis, dysentery, and  
24 respiratory problems among the residents of Illinois and will  
25 lead to the degradation of wildlife habitat and recreational  
26 use of Lake Michigan; therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
28 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
29 we formally oppose the current wastewater "blending" proposal  
30 put forth by the United States Environmental Protection Agency,

1 and encourage the Agency to reformulate its policy, taking  
2 better account of local health and recreational needs in an  
3 effort to lessen the entrance of stormwater runoff into the  
4 sewage treatment system, rather than providing an unhealthful  
5 means of managing it once the treatment system is overburdened  
6 in the event of a heavy rain; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the  
8 United States Environmental Protection Agency and each member  
9 of the Illinois congressional delegation.