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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

2 WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution  
3 states, "The public policy of the State and the duty of each  
4 person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for  
5 the benefit of this and future generations"; and

6 WHEREAS, A capital construction program is urgently needed  
7 and would fix aging infrastructure in Illinois, create jobs for  
8 working men and women, and stimulate the economy; and

9 WHEREAS, Previous capital construction proposals have  
10 called for as much as \$34 billion in spending; and

11 WHEREAS, The potentially massive public expenditure  
12 involved in a capital plan represents a once-in-a-generation  
13 opportunity to modernize and improve the basic infrastructure  
14 of our State; and

15 WHEREAS, The 21st century has already witnessed the  
16 development of technologies that promise to improve  
17 significantly the energy efficiency of buildings; to limit the  
18 environmental impact of new roads, bridges, and structures; to  
19 bring information technology resources to underserved areas;  
20 and to conserve and manage water resources; and

1           WHEREAS, Previous capital proposals have allocated vast  
2 financial resources to projects unguided by the principles of  
3 environmental protection, energy efficiency, and  
4 sustainability; and

5           WHEREAS, Numerous scientific studies have concluded that  
6 the health of our people can be directly affected by the  
7 products used in our buildings and that utilizing alternative  
8 green products can greatly reduce the risk of health problems  
9 caused by, among other things, volatile organic compounds; and

10           WHEREAS, Green and sustainable principles and practices  
11 promote environmental health and offer significant energy  
12 savings; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
15 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the General Assembly, together with the  
16 Governor, ought to make passage of a green and sustainable  
17 comprehensive capital construction plan a top priority; and be  
18 it further

19           RESOLVED, That the principles of environmental health,  
20 environmental protection, energy efficiency, and  
21 sustainability ought to guide the allocation of all funds in  
22 any capital construction plan; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That in providing funding for the construction of  
2 new buildings or the renovation of existing buildings, the law  
3 should require builders to adhere to sustainable building  
4 standards including the U.S. Green Building Council's  
5 Leadership in Environment and Energy Design (LEED) standards,  
6 the Green Globes standards, or construction elements with an  
7 equivalent certification; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That in determining the allocation of  
9 transportation funding, the State should give due  
10 consideration to new public transportation, including rail, in  
11 the interest of planning sustainable transportation  
12 infrastructure for a more densely populated society; and be it  
13 further

14           RESOLVED, That in providing for the construction and  
15 improvement of roads, the State should prioritize the laying of  
16 fiber-optic lines, particularly to rural areas and other  
17 regions of the State historically lacking in technological  
18 infrastructure; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That the State should consider and prioritize  
20 each project in light of its potential to create jobs, its  
21 environmental impact, and its long-term energy savings.