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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The current difficult economic conditions have
3 heavily impacted the small businesses in our nation through
4 decreased sales and difficulties in obtaining small business
5 financing; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER),
7 noting the significant role that small business plays in the U.
8 S. economy, found that: (1) roughly 6 million small businesses
9 with fewer than 20 employees account for 20 percent of
10 aggregate paid employment and about 15 percent of all sales
11 receipts and payroll in the United States; and (2) if small
12 business firms with fewer than 100 employees are considered,
13 the firms comprised 35 percent of aggregate employment in the
14 country; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Federation of Independent Business
16 (NFIB) has collected small business economic trends data with
17 surveys since 1973; in October 2011, the NFIB reported that its
18 Index of Small Business Optimism fell again to its
19 fourth-lowest reading in the 38-year history of the survey; and

20 WHEREAS, The NFIB's October 2011 survey further revealed
21 low ratings in the small business sector's expectations
22 concerning employment (overall reduction in employment for

1 fifth month in a row), inventories and sales (26 percent of the
2 owners indicated, "poor sales" is their top business problem),
3 and improved business conditions (the net percent of owners
4 expecting better business conditions in 6 months was a negative
5 16 percent, 6 points better than September, but still 26 points
6 worse than January); and

7 WHEREAS, The NFIB October 2011 analysis also noted that
8 consumer confidence posted only marginal gains over the last
9 few months and consumer confidence in economic policies remains
10 at 50-year record low levels according to the University of
11 Michigan's consumer confidence survey; and

12 WHEREAS, Small businesses in the State of Illinois have
13 been greatly impacted by the weak economic conditions, with
14 many small business owners becoming uncertain of their future
15 prospects and seeing diminishing returns as the difficult
16 economic circumstances continue; and

17 WHEREAS, Small businesses serve as the backbone of the
18 economies of the State of Illinois and the nation at large and
19 are deserving of the State's full support and encouragement;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we designate the month of January 2012 as "Small Business
2 Month" in the State of Illinois in honor of the small business
3 owners of this State and their vital role in the economy.