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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is the oldest and largest professional safety society; ASSE was founded in 1911 in response to the tragic New York City Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire; this Illinois non-profit, which is based in Des Plaines, has a global influence; and

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WHEREAS, ASSE has been dedicated for 100 years to the advancement of safety, health, and environmental professionals through education and advocacy; and

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WHEREAS, ASSE has over 32,000 members located in all 50 states, and in 75 other countries; and

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WHEREAS, 4,340 workers lost their lives in 2009 due to fatal occupational injuries; 158 of those deaths were in Illinois, representing the 6th highest number of workplace fatalities in the nation; and

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WHEREAS, 3.2 million workers suffered from non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in 2009, with 165,500 of those cases in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Businesses spend billions of dollars every year on costs associated with occupational injuries and illnesses,

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1 while the intangible costs of losing a coworker, friend, or
2 family member go beyond a price tag; and

3 WHEREAS, ASSE promotes community safety and health through
4 initiatives that raise awareness and improve prevention of
5 injury and illness, such as safety checklists for emergency
6 relief efforts, pandemic preparation tips, kids poster
7 contests, and a website with free safety tips at www.asse.org;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, ASSE joined with the Canadian Society of Safety
10 Engineering and U.S. federal agencies to sponsor North American
11 Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week each year in May,
12 when industry, trade organizations, and corporations
13 throughout the continent host activities that increase
14 awareness of the importance of workplace safety and health; and

15 WHEREAS, ASSE recognizes safety and health professionals
16 on Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day that falls
17 on the Wednesday of NAOSH Week each year; and

18 WHEREAS, ASSE established the ASSE Foundation, a 501(c)(3)
19 charity, to generate funds and provide resources for
20 scholarships, applied research, academic accreditation, and
21 related initiatives to advance the safety, health, and
22 environmental profession; and

1 WHEREAS, ASSE advances opportunities in occupational
2 safety and health education by helping set educational
3 standards and increasing the number of safety programs at the
4 undergraduate and graduate college levels; and

5 WHEREAS, ASSE proactively works with legislators and
6 regulators to ensure that government decisions that impact the
7 safety, health, and environment of the workplace are based on
8 good science and sound technology; and

9 WHEREAS, ASSE members use principles from many different
10 disciplines to improve working conditions in all walks of life,
11 including manufacturing, transportation, chemicals, mining,
12 utilities, construction, insurance, education, healthcare, and
13 government; and

14 WHEREAS, ASSE members work with employers every day to help
15 them wisely invest in safety, health, and environmental
16 programs, so that millions of employees go to and leave from
17 work injury-free; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we applaud and honor
20 the members of the American Society of Safety Engineers for 100
21 years of dedicated service to occupational safety, health, and

1 environmental professionals; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we commend safety, health, and
3 environmental practitioners for their ongoing commitment to
4 protecting people, property, and the environment; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That we commend those businesses that
7 incorporate safety, health, and environmental initiatives into
8 their strategies, even during times of hardship; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That we encourage all industries, organizations,
11 community leaders, employers, and employees to support
12 activities aimed at increasing awareness of preventing
13 illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we urge employers not to reduce their
15 efforts to improve workplace safety, health, and environmental
16 protection during economic downturns, as it will cost more in
17 the future; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage employees to be safe at work;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Governor and the Director of the Illinois
2 Department of Labor, as well as the members of the American
3 Society of Safety Engineers during the ASSE's Professional
4 Development Conference at McCormick Place from June 12-15, 2011
5 as a symbol of our respect and esteem for the organization and
6 its membership.