



SR1029

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois comprises part of the  
3 largest urban landscape market in the country with more than 4  
4 million ash trees total; our tree canopy now faces a crisis due  
5 to the emerald ash borer that will lead to a financial crisis  
6 for the State and its many municipalities; and

7           WHEREAS, Mature trees provide homeowners and  
8 municipalities tremendous environmental and economic benefits;  
9 trees reduce energy costs in the summer, play a role in  
10 rainwater management, and filter air; trees represent  
11 quantifiable value to homeowners; conservatively, five percent  
12 of a home's value is attributable to the trees on its property;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is now infested with the  
15 invasive species known as the emerald ash borer (EAB); 100% of  
16 all ash trees in the State of Illinois will be exposed to the  
17 EAB in the next five years and every ash tree not treated will  
18 expire shortly thereafter; and

19           WHEREAS, The average cost of tree removal and replacement  
20 in the State of Illinois is approximately \$1,000; this crisis  
21 will cost the State and its villages, towns, and cities \$3  
22 billion to \$4 billion over the next several years; and

1           WHEREAS, Trees can be treated for a fraction of the cost of  
2 removal and replacement; and

3           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to update its  
4 understanding of the science of treating EAB, as integrated  
5 management of the EAB has evolved and improved greatly in the  
6 past five years; and

7           WHEREAS, Leading academic researchers from The University  
8 of Illinois, Michigan State University, Purdue University, and  
9 Ohio State have found insecticide treatment methods to be  
10 effective, and one treatment method to be more than 95%  
11 effective at preserving ash trees; and

12           WHEREAS, The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), the  
13 prestigious professional organization of practicing arborists,  
14 published in May 2012 its latest findings and recommendations  
15 on management of the emerald ash borer; the SMA paper warns  
16 municipalities of a "financial tsunami" if they are not  
17 proactive and develop an EAB management paper; and

18           WHEREAS, The SMA found that the two extremes of removing  
19 trees and doing nothing is neither practical nor prudent;  
20 removing trees is not financially viable for many  
21 municipalities and does great harm to home values; doing

1 nothing puts people and property at great risk as dead trees  
2 will come crashing down in an unpredictable fashion; and

3 WHEREAS, The SMA found that an integrated approach that  
4 utilizes treatment along with the removal of low-grade ash  
5 trees is the best management option; and

6 WHEREAS, The International Society Arboriculture, the  
7 premier tree care organization in the world, supports the  
8 findings and recommendations of the SMA that advocates  
9 conservation of the urban ash canopy as the most prudent and  
10 practical management option; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge every village,  
13 town, and city within the State of Illinois to reevaluate its  
14 EAB management plan in light of the latest facts and  
15 recommendations presented by the leading experts in Spring of  
16 2012; specifically, municipalities should spend the little  
17 time required to evaluate EAB management options over a 20-year  
18 period utilizing readily available and online economic models  
19 from either The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point or Purdue  
20 University; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Agriculture  
22 should publicly communicate and include on its website,

1 <http://www.agr.state.il.us>, the 2012 EAB Management approach  
2 and explain the financial and environmental benefits to  
3 municipalities, citizens, and homeowners of that same  
4 approach.