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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ever since the first gasoline powered race was
3 held along the Chicago lakefront in 1895, Illinois has played a
4 significant role in establishing motorsports as one of the most
5 exciting and popular spectator sports in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1997, nine area entrepreneurs came together to
7 create the Route 66 Raceway, a state-of-the-art facility
8 featuring a one-quarter mile drag strip and a one-half mile
9 oval track along the historic roadway; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2001, due to its international popularity with
11 fans and race enthusiasts, Route 66 Raceway was transformed to
12 include Chicagoland Speedway, featuring a one and one-half
13 mile, D-shaped tri-oval speedway, with the combined entities
14 now forming the largest sports and entertainment complex in the
15 State of Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, Chicagoland Speedway and Route 66 Raceway host and
17 execute a broad array of programming encompassing well over 100
18 events annually, including major motorsports entertainment,
19 endurance events, musical concerts and festivals, industry
20 trade shows, and corporate training seminars which combined
21 generate an average economic impact in excess of \$150 million
22 annually throughout the Chicagoland area; and

1 WHEREAS, Chicagoland Speedway is celebrating its 15th year
2 of racing; in the last 15 years, the raceway has played host to
3 major United States racing events, including all three NASCAR
4 National Series and the Indy Racing League; and

5 WHEREAS, Chicagoland Speedway is owned by International
6 Speedway Corporation, a major promoter of motorsports
7 activities and entertainment programming who owns 13 of the
8 nation's major racing venues; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 2011, Chicagoland Speedway has hosted the
10 first race in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup, which is
11 akin to the playoffs in the world of motorsports; and

12 WHEREAS, On September 15-18, 2016, Chicagoland Speedway
13 will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a special celebration
14 and an extended four-day race weekend for this year's Chase for
15 the NASCAR Sprint Cup; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate September
18 11-18, 2016 as "Speed Week" in the State of Illinois in
19 recognition of Chicagoland Speedway's 15th season of racing;
20 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Chicagoland Speedway and the International
3 Speedway Corporation as a symbol of our esteem and respect and
4 in recognition of their service to the community.