

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Agricultural lands of the State contribute
3 substantially to the State, national, and world food supplies
4 and are a vital part of the State's economy; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the State to conserve,
6 protect, and encourage the development and improvement of its
7 agricultural land for the production of food, fiber, and
8 other agricultural products; and

9 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to encourage the
10 preservation of farm land, forest land, and open space land
11 in order to maintain a readily available source of food and
12 farm products close to the urban areas of the State; and

13 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to prevent the
14 forced conversion of farm land, forest land, and open space
15 land to more intensive uses as the result of economic
16 pressures caused by the assessment of that land for purposes
17 of property taxation at values incompatible with its
18 preservation as farm land, forest land, or open space land;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Funding may be necessary to better address the
21 needs of conserving agricultural land near urban areas; and

22 WHEREAS, Long-term private stewardship of agricultural
23 lands can be encouraged by offering landowners financial
24 incentives; and

25 WHEREAS, Local land planning for orderly and efficient
26 urban growth and conservation of agricultural land should be
27 encouraged; therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
29 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we join California,
30 Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky,

1 Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey,
2 North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
3 Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin in affirming the
4 importance of farmland protection.