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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The first total solar eclipse to occur along a path across the entire continental United States since 1918 will occur on August 21, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, The point of greatest duration for the eclipse on August 21, 2017 will occur along a line of totality stretching northwest to southeast across Southern Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, A second total solar eclipse will occur seven years later on April 8, 2024, with a line of totality stretching southwest to northeast across Southern Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The centerline of totality for both eclipses will intersect in Jackson County, just a few miles south of Carbondale; and

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WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, which is ranked among the top 5% of all United States higher education institutions for research, will host public educational events and activities in cooperation with NASA, the Adler Planetarium, and other top scientists and institutions from around the world, providing an environment for quality outreach, research, and citizen science on the 2017 and 2024 eclipses;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Eclipse outreach events and activities at
3 Southern Illinois University Carbondale are aligned with the
4 Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
5 Strategic Plan, most closely relating to implementation in the
6 areas of: increase and sustain youth and public engagement in
7 STEM, enhance STEM experience of undergraduate students,
8 better serve groups historically underrepresented in STEM
9 fields; and

10 WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University Carbondale through
11 the Southern Illinois Eclipse 2017 - 2024 steering committee is
12 providing educational assistance to K-12 school districts in
13 the path of the eclipse; and

14 WHEREAS, Roughly 250,000 visitors are estimated to travel
15 to areas within a 100-mile radius of the intersection of
16 eclipse totality in Southern Illinois on or about August 21,
17 2017 and April 8, 2024 to experience the total solar eclipses;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The influx of visitors to Southern Illinois to
20 view each eclipse will provide much-needed, long-term economic
21 opportunity for the Southern 16 counties of Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, The total solar eclipses on August 21, 2017 and
2 April 8, 2024 will provide unique opportunities to showcase the
3 scenic, natural, historic, recreational, archeological, and
4 cultural resources of Southern Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Due to the anticipated 250,000 visitors to
6 Southern Illinois to view the eclipse, there is an urgent need
7 to direct resources to the region to support entrepreneurship,
8 job creation, hospitality training, heritage tourism,
9 workforce development, infrastructure, and disaster response;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 designate Southern Illinois as the "Eclipse Crossroads of
14 America" and August 21, 2017 as "Great American Eclipse Day
15 2017"; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we encourage the development of a marketing
17 plan for regional branding around the solar eclipses and
18 general regional tourism and economic development in Southern
19 Illinois that coordinates and leverages investment by federal,
20 State and local governmental entities, private business,
21 non-profits and non-governmental organizations that support
22 development of a regional organization to ensure sustainable,
23 long-term economic development that balances meeting immediate

1 needs with dedicating resources to strategic and long-term
2 goals.