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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois rivers were once a vital part of the culture and lives of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw peoples who inhabited the land, which continues to carry their stories; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois rivers have been a vital part of the State's history since statehood, including the life of the 16th President Abraham Lincoln, the story of the Underground Railroad up to and during the Civil War, and part of the development story of the City of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Rivers throughout Illinois are premier natural resources, providing water for agriculture, wildlife, recreation, and residential and industrial uses; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois contains more miles of rivers than any other state east of the Mississippi River, and Illinoisans throughout the State enjoy recreation on Illinois rivers, including boating, fishing, angling, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, tubing, and many other sports; and

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WHEREAS, Agriculture, water recreation, and water-related tourism are key economic drivers in the State, and the values

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1 and services associated with watersheds such as clean water
2 and energy are critical to the State's overall economic
3 health; and

4 WHEREAS, Tons of trash, junk, and debris are annually
5 dumped into Illinois Rivers along its banks, negatively
6 impacting riparian wildlife, damaging both the aesthetic and
7 biological qualities of a river; and

8 WHEREAS, Various state legislatures have encouraged
9 waterway clean-up activities by designating September as River
10 Clean Up Month; and

11 WHEREAS, During the month of September, water levels are
12 usually low, temperatures are warm, and colleges and schools
13 are in session, all of which present an educational
14 opportunity to involve area youth and to highlight the
15 importance of clean rivers and waterways; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the month of
18 September 2024 as River Clean Up Month in the State of
19 Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we encourage chambers of commerce,
21 convention and visitors bureaus, local economic development

1 organizations, area groups and associations, and local schools
2 and colleges to organize and coordinate local cleanup
3 activities along portions of rivers and waterways in their
4 area; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois is encouraged to
6 promote September as River Clean Up Month.