



HJ0055

LRB104 17469 MST 30895 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to some of the most productive
3 and fertile agricultural land in the world, forming the
4 foundation of the State's economy, food security, and rural
5 heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, Agriculture remains a critical driver of
7 employment, export revenue, and community stability across
8 Illinois, supporting farmers, farmworkers, processors, and
9 local economies; and

10 WHEREAS, Prime farmland and farmland of statewide
11 importance are finite resources that, once converted to
12 non-agricultural uses, are rarely restored to full
13 agricultural productivity; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has made significant public
15 investments in strengthening local food systems, supporting
16 emerging and family farmers, advancing agricultural equity,
17 and promoting rural economic development, all of which depend
18 on continued access to viable farmland; and

19 WHEREAS, Illinois has committed to ambitious clean-energy
20 and climate goals through the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act,
21 establishing the State as a national leader in

1 renewable-energy deployment, emissions reduction, workforce
2 development, and environmental justice; and

3 WHEREAS, Climate solutions must be implemented
4 responsibly, equitably, and sustainably with consideration for
5 land, water, food systems, and communities, according to the
6 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act; and

7 WHEREAS, Agricultural land contributes to Illinois'
8 climate resilience by supporting local food production,
9 reducing transportation-related emissions, preserving
10 carbon-rich soils, and maintaining working landscapes; and

11 WHEREAS, Large-scale solar, energy storage, transmission,
12 and other industrial developments are increasingly sited on
13 active agricultural land, raising concerns regarding soil
14 health, drainage systems, long-term land productivity, farm
15 viability, and local land-use authority; and

16 WHEREAS, The avoidable conversion or fragmentation of
17 productive farmland may undermine long-term food security,
18 weaken rural economies, and diminish the environmental and
19 climate benefits associated with healthy agricultural soils;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Responsible land-use planning can advance

1 clean-energy objectives while protecting farmland by
2 prioritizing development on disturbed lands, brownfields,
3 rooftops, parking facilities, rights-of-way, and other
4 non-agricultural or previously developed sites; and

5 WHEREAS, Farmers, landowners, conservation districts, and
6 local governments have a direct interest in decisions
7 affecting agricultural land, soil resources, water systems,
8 and rural infrastructure; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that it is of vital importance to
12 protect Illinois farmland from irreversible conversion and
13 fragmentation due to solar, industrial, and other large-scale
14 developments; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we affirm that farmland protection is
16 consistent with and complementary to the goals of the Climate
17 and Equitable Jobs Act and should be considered in
18 clean-energy planning and implementation; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge State agencies, local governments,
20 and developers to prioritize renewable-energy and
21 infrastructure projects on non-agricultural lands whenever
22 practicable and to minimize impacts on prime farmland and

1 farmland of statewide importance; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we support renewable-energy siting
3 practices that protect soil health, drainage infrastructure,
4 and long-term agricultural productivity, including appropriate
5 decommissioning and land-restoration standards; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we encourage transparent decision-making
8 and meaningful community engagement to ensure that
9 agricultural landowners and rural communities are protected
10 from unintended long-term harm; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to the Governor, the Illinois Department of
13 Agriculture, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the
14 Illinois Commerce Commission, county boards, and other
15 relevant planning authorities.