



HR0557

LRB104 16420 LAW 29810 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Friends of the Chicago River on being awarded the 2025 Thiess International River Prize; and

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WHEREAS, The Thiess International River Prize, established in 1999, is the world's most esteemed award for river restoration and management, honoring trailblazing organizations that advance lasting ecological, social, and economic benefits worldwide; and

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WHEREAS, Friends of the Chicago River was awarded the prestigious Thiess International River Prize by the International River Foundation at the International River Symposium in Brisbane, Australia on September 10, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Friends of the Chicago River, founded in 1979, is the only organization exclusively dedicated to the restoration and protection of the entire 156-mile Chicago-Calumet River system, leading bold policy reforms, habitat restoration, and public engagement that have transformed the river from an overlooked industrial waterway into a thriving urban ecosystem; and

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1           WHEREAS, Friends of the Chicago River was selected as the  
2 2025 winner from a distinguished group of finalists, including  
3 Cumbria Rivers of the United Kingdom, the Klamath River of the  
4 United States, and the Vjosa River of Albania, all recognized  
5 for pioneering watershed-scale interventions; and

6           WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Executive Director  
7 Margaret Frisbie and a dedicated staff, Friends of the Chicago  
8 River engages more than 60,000 people annually, including  
9 20,000 youth, through education, outreach, and hands-on  
10 stewardship; further, the organization advances policy  
11 initiatives that improve water quality, protect biodiversity,  
12 and strengthen climate resilience across the Chicago-Calumet  
13 watershed; and

14           WHEREAS, Friends of the Chicago River being recognized as  
15 the 2025 Thiess International River Prize winner underscores  
16 the emergence of the organization as a global leader in urban  
17 river restoration and affirms the organization's pioneering  
18 role in shaping a future where rivers are valued as vital  
19 natural, social, and climate-sustaining wonders; and

20           WHEREAS, The transformation of the Chicago-Calumet River  
21 system demonstrates what is possible when community members,  
22 scientists, government agencies, and nonprofit leaders unite  
23 behind a shared vision of ecological renewal, environmental

1 justice, and civic pride; and

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois champions clean water and  
3 validates it in the State constitution; and

4 WHEREAS, It is fitting that members of the Illinois House  
5 of Representatives recognize organizations that have made  
6 transformative contributions to environmental stewardship,  
7 river restoration, climate resilience, and public service;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we congratulate Friends of the Chicago River on being awarded  
12 the 2025 Thiess International River Prize, and we thank the  
13 organization for its visionary leadership, tireless advocacy,  
14 and enduring commitment to protecting and restoring our  
15 waterways; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Friends of the Chicago River as an expression of  
18 our respect and admiration.