



HR0886

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Illinois Department
4 of Natural Resources on the occasion of the 60th anniversary
5 of the dedication of Kankakee River Nature Preserve; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act
7 created a system for preserving and protecting areas of the
8 State as a part of the heritage of the people of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois Nature Preserves are of value for
10 scientific research, for teaching, as reservoirs of natural
11 materials not all of the potential uses of which are now known,
12 as habitats for rare and vanishing species, as places of
13 historic and natural interest and scenic beauty and as living
14 museums of the native landscape wherein one may envision and
15 experience primeval conditions in a wilderness-like
16 environment; and

17 WHEREAS, Nature preserves contribute generally to the
18 public health and welfare and the environmental quality of the
19 State; and

20 WHEREAS, The Kankakee River Nature Preserve, located in
21 Kankakee County, was officially established in 1966 to protect

1 and conserve its diverse natural communities, including upland
2 forest, bottomland forest, and sand hill areas representative
3 of the Grand Prairie Natural Division; and

4 WHEREAS, The Kankakee River Nature Preserve is recognized
5 for its globally significant natural features, most notably
6 Langham Island, the only place in the world where Kankakee
7 mallow grows in the wild, making it an important natural area
8 within northeastern Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, The Kankakee River Nature Preserve provides
10 critical habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal
11 species, including more than 500 surveyed plant species on
12 Langham Island alone, such as the rare wild stonecrop, the
13 rare bulblet fern, and the federally endangered leafy prairie
14 clover, which was discovered on the island last summer for the
15 first time since 1873; and

16 WHEREAS, The Kankakee River Nature Preserve offers
17 opportunities for nature observation, birdwatching, and
18 environmental education, allowing residents and visitors to
19 experience one of northeastern Illinois' most ecologically
20 significant natural areas along the Kankakee River; and

21 WHEREAS, The stewardship of the Kankakee River Nature
22 Preserve has been supported by dedicated local partners,

1 especially the Friends of Langham Island and a broad network
2 of residents in the region dedicated to conservation, with
3 additional support from organizations such as the Illinois
4 Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of
5 Natural Resources; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past 60 years, Kankakee River Nature
7 Preserve has contributed to the protection of Illinois'
8 natural heritage and serves as a valuable natural resource for
9 the residents of Kankakee County; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
13 on the 60th anniversary of the dedication of Kankakee River
14 Nature Preserve and commend its ongoing commitment to
15 conservation, education, and stewardship; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and
18 the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission as a symbol of our
19 respect and esteem.