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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are the largest chain of
3 freshwater lakes in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Canada's Great Lakes Waterfront Trail stretches
5 from Lake Superior to the St. Lawrence River at the
6 Ontario-Québec border, more than 2,250 miles, and is a
7 greenway route of interconnecting roads and off-road trails,
8 joining more than 150 communities, including Indigenous
9 nations; and

10 WHEREAS, There are currently three established or
11 soon-to-be established pedestrian and/or bicycling
12 international crossings; and

13 WHEREAS, The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and
14 Conservation Assistance program is currently mapping a
15 potential route for a recreation trail along the Great Lakes
16 in all eight states; and

17 WHEREAS, Recreation trails connect people with nature,
18 improve public health, and foster economic activity; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois currently has trail access
20 along its 63 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, including

1 sections of the American Discovery Trail, the Lake Front Path,
2 the Green Bay Trail, and the McClory Trail; and

3 WHEREAS, A 2019 study performed for the Friends of the
4 Chicago River found that establishing a blue/green corridor,
5 waterfront lands that provide people with a place to play,
6 allow for the natural movement of wildlife, and include open
7 space to absorb and filter rainwater, along the Chicago River
8 would create over \$192 million in total economic benefits
9 annually over a 15-year timespan and support over 1,614
10 full-time equivalent jobs annually; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we support the work
13 being done towards the creation of the U.S. Great Lakes
14 Waterfront Trail; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge Illinois state agencies to continue
16 to coordinate with other states on a shared identity for this
17 regional trail.