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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District on
4 the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Colored Sands Bluff
5 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, Illinois Nature Preserves contribute generally to
18 the public health and welfare and the environmental quality of
19 the State; and

20 WHEREAS, Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve, located in
21 Winnebago County, was officially established in 1976 to

1 protect and conserve its dry sand savanna, dry and dry-mesic
2 sand prairie, dolomite prairie, bottomland forest, and Sugar
3 River bluffs; and

4 WHEREAS, Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve is recognized
5 for its 40-foot glacially formed sand bluff overlooking the
6 Sugar River, exposures of St. Peter Sandstone, and panoramic
7 scenic overlooks of the pristine Sugar River valley, making it
8 an important natural area within Northwestern Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve provides
10 critical habitat for a diverse array of plant and animal
11 species, including more than 150 bird species documented, with
12 4,000 to 6,000 individual birds banded annually at the Sand
13 Bluff Bird Observatory, one of the largest public bird banding
14 stations in the country; it hosts Blanding's turtle, a species
15 threatened in the State, and the State-listed species of
16 conservation concern Henslow's sparrow, as well as the western
17 hognose snake, blue-spotted salamander, and rare prairie
18 wildflowers, including blue lupine, hoary puccoon, and
19 birdsfoot violet; and

20 WHEREAS, Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve offers
21 opportunities for hiking, canoeing, wildlife observation, bird
22 banding, and environmental education, allowing residents and
23 visitors to experience panoramic views of the Sugar River

1 valley, direct observation of bird banding operations, and
2 immersion in habitats found nowhere else in Winnebago County;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The stewardship of Colored Sands Bluff Nature
5 Preserve has been supported by the Winnebago County Forest
6 Preserve District and other dedicated local partners,
7 community members, and conservation advocates, with additional
8 support from organizations such as the Illinois Nature
9 Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural
10 Resources; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the past 50 years, Colored Sands Bluff
12 Nature Preserve has contributed to the protection of Illinois'
13 natural heritage and serves as a valuable natural resource for
14 the residents of Winnebago; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
17 Winnebago County Forest Preserve District on the 50th
18 anniversary of Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve and commend
19 its ongoing commitment to conservation, education, and
20 stewardship; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Winnebago County Forest Preserve District as a

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1 symbol of our respect and esteem.