



HJ0047

LRB101 11657 MST 57939 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Middle Fork River merges with the Salt Fork  
3 River to form the Vermilion River, which flows through  
4 Danville, a city of 32,000; and

5 WHEREAS, Danville is currently redeveloping its riverfront  
6 and intends to link this revitalized open space to the city's  
7 adjacent downtown as a way of attracting tourists and boosting  
8 their local economy; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2011, Dynegy closed the Vermilion Power  
10 Station, a former coal-fired power plant on the only private  
11 inholding along 17 miles of wild and scenic river; and

12 WHEREAS, The closed coal plant sits on the bluff above the  
13 Middle Fork of the Vermilion River; the 3.3 million cubic yards  
14 of coal ash produced over its 55-year operating life currently  
15 rest in three coal ash pits on the site; and

16 WHEREAS, Coal ash contaminants can include arsenic,  
17 barium, boron, chromium, iron, lead, manganese, molybdenum,  
18 nickel, and sulfate, which are known to cause birth defects,  
19 cancer, and neurological damage in humans and can harm and kill  
20 wildlife, especially fish; and

1           WHEREAS, Coal plants across the State of Illinois are going  
2 to need a set of rules and guidelines to help alleviate  
3 environmental damage and encourage safe and responsible  
4 storage of the coal ash remnants from plant operations; and

5           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to create laws and  
6 policies that encourage a safe and environmentally appropriate  
7 process to deal with the coal ash remnants across the State;  
8 therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Illinois  
12 Coal Ash Task Force to bring legislators, coal company  
13 representatives, environmental experts, and the public  
14 together to study the effects of coal ash on the Vermilion  
15 River and the rest of the State; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall be comprised of the  
17 following eight members, who shall serve without compensation:

18           (1) One State Representative appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House, who shall serve as chair;

20           (2) One State Representative appointed by the House  
21 Minority Leader;

22           (3) One State Senator appointed by the Senate  
23 President;

1           (4) One State Senator appointed by the Senate Minority  
2 Leader;

3           (5) The Director of the Illinois Environmental  
4 Protection Agency or his or her designee;

5           (6) The Executive Director of the Prairie Research  
6 Institute or his or her designee;

7           (7) One member from an organization whose purpose is  
8 the protection of the environment and natural resources,  
9 with a focus on the health and restoration of bodies of  
10 water, appointed by the Governor; and

11           (8) One member from the business community, appointed  
12 by the Governor; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Environmental Protection  
14 Agency shall provide administrative support; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall meet no fewer than  
16 three times; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final report  
18 to the General Assembly within one year of its formation, but  
19 no later than December 31, 2020, and upon the filing of its  
20 report, is dissolved.