



HR0218

LRB102 18077 LAW 25120 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, In response to the Dust Bowl, Congress enacted  
3 the Soil Conservation Act, which President Roosevelt signed on  
4 April 27, 1935, creating the Soil Conservation Service (SCS)  
5 in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

6           WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly created the Soil  
7 and Water Conservation Districts Act to promote the protection  
8 and wise use of soil, water, and related resources on July 9,  
9 1937; and

10           WHEREAS, The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation  
11 District (MPSWCD) was founded on December 6, 1941 and has  
12 promoted conservation ethics for 80 years; and

13           WHEREAS, The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation  
14 District discussed practices for long range work in 1942,  
15 which included contouring intertilled crops, seeding small  
16 grains, adding permanent sod waterways, improving pastures,  
17 mowing pasture weeds, controlling weeds, harvesting hayseed,  
18 liming, fertilizing, and tree planting; and

19           WHEREAS, The State Soil Conservation District Board  
20 respectfully requested the Illinois General Assembly fund the  
21 Illinois Soil Conservation District in 1943 to provide for

1 incidental expenses as required by law, such as ads or  
2 elections and office supplies; and

3 WHEREAS, Hugh Hammond Bennett, the father of soil  
4 conservation, visited the Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water  
5 Conservation District in 1943, where he spent time talking to  
6 local landowners, explaining how conservation would help their  
7 farming practices, and instilling the beginnings of relations  
8 with the local field offices; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois River divides both Marshall and  
10 Putnam Counties, creating its own unique concerns and problems  
11 for conservation; while the Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water  
12 Conservation District is one of the smallest districts, it is  
13 one of the top producers of conservation dollars and practices  
14 implemented in its part of the State; and

15 WHEREAS, The Illinois Erosion and Sediment Control law,  
16 often referred to as the T by 2000 program, became effective in  
17 April 1980 and was designed to preserve the long-term  
18 productivity of Illinois soil and to protect water quality;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The first survey was run in 1982, and it showed  
21 that around 50% of the acres in Illinois were protected from  
22 soil loss, which was the average across the State; by the year

1 2018, 99.6% of the acres in Marshall and Putnam Counties were  
2 protected from soil loss by being under the 2% of T soil loss;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation  
5 District wrote a grant in 2018 to put conservation on the  
6 ground in the form of waterways, basins, and edge of field  
7 practices, which allowed the district to open 25 new  
8 partnerships with agencies across the State; and

9 WHEREAS, The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation  
10 District's devoted Board of Directors and staff have achieved  
11 measurable results in preventing soil loss since the  
12 district's formation; the current Board of Directors are Terry  
13 Bogner, Debbie Leigh, Richard Ashdown, Carol Stadel, Josh  
14 Merdian, Jim McQuilkin, and Diana Williamson; staff members  
15 are Jill Ketter, Stacy Williamson, Erika Luft, and Tyler  
16 Shipley; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
19 we congratulate the Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation  
20 District for 80 years of continued conservation efforts for  
21 Marshall and Putnam Counties; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Board of Directors and staff of the  
2 Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District as a symbol  
3 of our respect and esteem.