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LRB102 26894 MST 38019 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire provides multiple ecological, economic, and cultural benefits to the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire has been practiced for thousands of years and was a primary tool used by Indigenous peoples to attract game, stimulate a rich ground layer of plants for harvesting, and keep woodlands and grasslands open and easy to traverse; and

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire is a traditional land management practice and public safety tool that helps prevent and lessen the severity of wildfires; and

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire is a valuable tool used by forest landowners and managers in reducing hazardous fuels, reducing the risk of destructive wildfires, preparing sites for both natural and artificial forest regeneration, improving access to and the appearance of land, and controlling detrimental insects and forest diseases; and

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire is an effective natural tool for controlling invasive species; and

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WHEREAS, Prescribed fire is one of the most important land

1 management practices in maintaining and restoring healthy
2 landscapes, but only approximately 6% of conservation lands in
3 Illinois are currently being managed with prescribed fire; and

4 WHEREAS, Prescribed fire is used to restore and maintain
5 fire-dependent ecosystems and to manage wildlife habitat for
6 many species; it is a vital tool to maintain economic,
7 biological, and aesthetic resources across Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois Prescribed Fire Council is an
9 organization of both public and private partners with a
10 mission to promote the safe and continued use of prescribed
11 fire on the Illinois landscape; and

12 WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly passed the Illinois
13 Prescribed Burning Act in 2007 defining prescribed fire as
14 "the planned application of fire to naturally occurring
15 vegetative fuels under specified environmental conditions and
16 following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the
17 fire to be confined to a predetermined area and accomplish the
18 planned land management objectives."; and

19 WHEREAS, Prescribed fire helps keep Illinois grasslands
20 and forests healthy, which, in return, provides ecological
21 services such as clean air and clean water and contributes to
22 the quality of life of the State's citizens and to local

1 economies; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April
4 11-15, 2022 as "Prescribed Burning Awareness Week" in the
5 State of Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we support the appropriate and continued
7 use of prescribed fire in Illinois; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council as a symbol
10 of our respect and esteem.