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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois rivers were once a vital part of the
3 culture and lives of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea,
4 Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi,
5 Ojibwe, and Chickasaw peoples who inhabited the land, which
6 continues to carry their stories; and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois rivers have been a vital part of the
8 State's history since statehood, including the life of the
9 16th President Abraham Lincoln, the story of the Underground
10 Railroad up to and during the Civil War, and part of the
11 development story of the City of Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, Rivers throughout Illinois are premier natural
13 resources, providing water for agriculture, wildlife,
14 recreation, and residential and industrial uses; and

15 WHEREAS, Illinois contains more miles of rivers than any
16 other state east of the Mississippi River, and Illinoisans
17 throughout the State enjoy recreation on Illinois rivers,
18 including boating, fishing, angling, kayaking, canoeing,
19 paddleboarding, tubing, and many other sports; and

20 WHEREAS, Agriculture, water recreation, and water-related
21 tourism are key economic drivers in the State, and the values

1 and services associated with watersheds such as clean water
2 and energy are critical to the State's overall economic
3 health; and

4 WHEREAS, Tons of trash, junk, and debris are annually
5 dumped into Illinois Rivers along its banks, negatively
6 impacting riparian wildlife, damaging both the aesthetic and
7 biological qualities of a river; and

8 WHEREAS, Various state legislatures have encouraged
9 waterway clean-up activities by designating September as River
10 Clean Up Month; and

11 WHEREAS, During the month of September, water levels are
12 usually low, temperatures are warm, and colleges and schools
13 are in session, all of which present an educational
14 opportunity to involve area youth and to highlight the
15 importance of clean rivers and waterways; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we declare the month of September 2023 as River Clean Up Month
19 in the State of Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we encourage chambers of commerce,
21 convention and visitors bureaus, local economic development

1 organizations, area groups and associations, and local schools
2 and colleges to organize and coordinate local cleanup
3 activities along portions of rivers and waterways in their
4 area; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois is encouraged to
6 promote September as River Clean Up Month.