

HR0900 LRB103 42672 ECR 75905 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The fourth Saturday in September is celebrated annually as National Public Lands Day to highlight the relationship between people and nature in recognition of America's public lands, including local, state, and national parks, conservation areas, forests, wildlife refuges, nature preserves, grasslands, marine sanctuaries, lakes, and reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, Founded by the National Environmental Education Foundation in 1994, National Public Lands Day will celebrate its 31st anniversary this year with the theme of "Together for Tomorrow" to foster environmental stewardship among people and communities in order to preserve and to protect public lands for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Each year on National Public Lands Day, thousands of volunteers gather to give back to public lands through a variety of activities, such as maintaining trails, planting trees, partaking in beach cleanups, removing invasive plants, participating in research as citizen scientists, and more; others get involved by visiting public lands and engaging in hiking, picnicking, camping, educational activities, and other forms of outdoor recreation; and

- 1 WHEREAS, National Public Lands Day underscores the
- 2 importance nature, public lands, and outdoor activities and
- 3 recreation play in improving and maintaining our physical and
- 4 mental well-being; and
- 5 WHEREAS, National Public Lands Day provides a platform for
- 6 environmental and outdoor education, raising awareness about
- 7 conservation practices on public lands and the importance of
- 8 preserving natural resources; therefore, be it
- 9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
- 10 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
- we recognize September 28, 2024 as National Public Lands Day
- in the State of Illinois; and be it further
- 13 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to celebrate the
- 14 benefits that our public lands have to offer and to
- 15 participate in activities to preserve and promote these
- important resources for the future.