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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate the Peoria Rivermen hockey team on winning the 2023 - 2024 SPHL championship; and

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WHEREAS, The SPHL (Southern Professional Hockey League) is a professional ice hockey independent minor league based in Huntersville, North Carolina, with teams located primarily in the southeastern United States as well as in Illinois and Indiana; and

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WHEREAS, The Peoria Rivermen's championship win in 2024 marks its first championship win on home ice in 25 years; and

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WHEREAS, The Peoria Rivermen beat the Huntsville Havoc 5 to 1 before a crowd of 5,902 at Carver Arena who witnessed a once-in-a-generation moment unfold on the ice as Peoria won the SPHL title for the second time in three years; and

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WHEREAS, The 42-year old Peoria Rivermen franchise won the title at Carver Arena on the 25th anniversary of the team's ECHL Kelly Cup championship that marked its last cup win secured on home ice; and

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WHEREAS, The Peoria Rivermen became the first team in SPHL

1 history to lose Game 1 of a best-of-three championship series  
2 and come back to win the title; and

3 WHEREAS, The Peoria Rivermen are also believed to be the  
4 first team in pro hockey history to win a championship on home  
5 ice at all three levels of the minors, having won once at  
6 Carver Arena in the old International Hockey League (class  
7 AAA), once in the ECHL (class AA), and now once in the SPHL  
8 (class A+); and

9 WHEREAS, The Peoria Rivermen last won the SPHL  
10 championship title in 2022; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the  
13 Peoria Rivermen hockey team on winning the 2023 - 2024 SPHL  
14 championship, marking its second championship win in the SPHL;  
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the Peoria Rivermen as a symbol of our respect and  
18 esteem.