

**JOINT RESOLUTION
OF THE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 300
COMMUNITIES' OPPOSITION OF AMENDMENT 3
OF SENATE BILL 540**

WHEREAS, the below signed individuals are elected officials of municipalities and governmental entities whose communities are serviced by Community Unit School CUSD 300, who has the obligation and responsibility for educating the school children of our community; and

WHEREAS, it has been clearly documented that successful communities and superior quality of life as defined by our residents must include quality educational opportunities for the children of our community; and

WHEREAS, all governmental entities have become glaringly aware in the last several years that resources and funding are becoming more strained and scarce, and it is increasingly more difficult to achieve the objective of providing superior quality of life and the best possible educational opportunities for our children; and

WHEREAS, an Economic Development Area (EDA) was created 20 years ago by diverting property taxes from developing parcels away from the various taxing bodies, including CUSD 300, to a fund established and administered solely by the Village of Hoffman Estates to spur economic development, including the retention of Sears within the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates indicate that, without the EDA, \$14,000,000 of property tax dollars would go to CUSD 300 annually; and

WHEREAS, this proposed extension of the EDA does not just negatively affect CUSD 300, it negatively affects all governmental entities that are serviced by CUSD 300 and all residential and business taxpayers within our respective communities by diverting property tax revenues from CUSD 300 to Hoffman Estates; and

WHEREAS, for the past 21 years, Sears and Hoffman Estates have been telling CUSD 300 verbally and in writing that when the EDA expired in 2012, all of the taxing bodies, including CUSD 300, would experience a windfall and would receive the increased increment of property taxes to meet their service obligations; and

WHEREAS, Hoffman Estates is pushing hard for the extension of the EDA for another 17 years, not because of concern over Sears leaving this location or Illinois, as they have claimed, but because they believe the money is better used to continue to fund their own individual municipal operations and to fund and pay for a municipally owned facility, the Sears Centre; and

WHEREAS, Hoffman Estates is utilizing this amendment to transfer its financial obligations for municipal services and for the Sears Centre away from its residents and onto our residents and the 21,000 students of CUSD 300; and

WHEREAS, Hoffman Estates has packaged and shrouded its effort to extend the EDA as a tool essential to retain Sears and its jobs within the State, but nowhere in Amendment 3 to SB 540 is there an understanding of the public dollars that would be committed to Sears in order retain the company, nor is there a commitment by Sears that if this extension is granted, they will stay; and

WHEREAS, what is evident is that the Village of Hoffman Estates is attempting to amend the legislation to allow for payment of their ongoing bond debt obligations for the Sears Centre out of these EDA funds, which is the principal goal and intention of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the claimed purpose of the extension makes a mockery of the legislative process and specifically harms and diverts needed resources from CUSD 300 to Hoffman Estates for their own purposes; and

WHEREAS, an agreement and understanding existed between Hoffman Estates and the governmental entities that make up the EDA to mutually agree and discuss any changes or amendments or extension of the EDA;

NOW THEREFORE, as a state legislator, you must question the equitability of this proposed legislation and its amendment. We, as a collective group, for this reason, ask you to vote against SB 540, and specifically remove Amendment 3; and

We would ask you as State legislators, why would you allow Hoffman Estates new and expanded expenditure authority under the EDA extension for their community's own interests, as opposed to having these property tax dollars allocated back to CUSD 300?; and

Furthermore, we would ask you as State legislators how can you ethically and morally support Hoffman Estates' effort to purposely and blatantly push this legislation through without any notification or discussion of this amendment, thereby breaking the promise and commitment to negotiate any changes or extension of this EDA?

PASSED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Barrington Hills and approved by the President of said Village this 24 day of October, 2011.

APPROVED THIS _____ day of October, 2011

AYES: _____, NAYS: _____, ABSENT: _____

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

Village President