



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Legislation Text

File #: 23-0231, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION FOR BOARD MEETING MARCH 2, 2023

RESOLUTION sponsored by the Board of Commissioners recognizing the contributions of Irish Americans

WHEREAS, the United States has long been termed the land of opportunity for immigrants in search of achieving a better life for themselves and their children. For this reason, millions of Irish immigrants made the perilous journey in the 1840's across the Atlantic Ocean to escape famine and poverty, accounting for half of all migrants during that time; and

WHEREAS, while the newly arrived populace initially found conditions to be tenuous, with the onset of the American Industrial Revolution, opportunities increased dramatically. Many Irish workers found employment with the railroads, in factories or textile industries, and working in mines; and

WHEREAS, as the demands of the labor market increased, so did the need for equitable working conditions. As such, Irish Americans joined with other groups in the mandate for child labor laws and eight hour works days, and were instrumental in the organization of the labor unions; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans also contributed to the development of the waterways. In fact, Irish labor played a significant role in the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the cherished culture and traditions that Irish migrants brought with them, Irish Americans have embraced the United States as their home. Accordingly, Irish heritage is woven into the fabric of American society; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans have made immeasurable contributions including to the fields of commerce, industry, education, and literature. Likewise, Irish Americans have served in all branches of the military and have honorably defended the United States in times of conflict; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago proudly recognizes the contributions of Irish Americans and expresses gratitude for their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, on behalf of ourselves and our staff, do hereby recognize the contributions of Irish Americans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Dated: March 2, 2023