

Vote NO on SB 2556!

Don't Put Seniors at Risk or Jeopardize Illinoisans' Federal Flood Insurance

SB 2556 would change the definition of the 100-year floodplain so that flood-prone areas protected by federal levees and located in flood prevention districts would no longer be included. The bill overrides existing law, which is based on lessons learned after levee failures during the “Great Mississippi Flood of 1993” and in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

SB 2556 is opposed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Department of Insurance, as well as the Illinois Association for Floodplain Management, the Illinois Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Prairie Rivers Network, The Nature Conservancy and other environmental groups. Sen. William R. Haine is the bill's chief sponsor.



New Nursing Homes and Landfills Should Not Be Located in Disaster-Prone Areas

Floodplain areas behind federal levees are still at risk of major flooding. Destruction of a landfill, hazardous waste storage facility, or livestock waste lagoon in a flood would make a bad situation even worse. New fire stations, hospitals, and nursing homes should be located outside of flood-prone areas so that our most vulnerable citizens will not be left helpless in a disaster.

The bill's main supporters are special interests. Waste Management has a pending application for a permit to develop a new landfill in the 100-year floodplain adjacent to Horseshoe Lake in Madison County.

Illinois Home and Business Owners Could Be Left Unprotected in a Disaster

SB 2556 creates a conflict with federal policy that could jeopardize eligibility for flood insurance provided through the National Flood Insurance Program. Unlike current State regulations, **SB 2556** does not reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps. FEMA maps identify a community's flood risk based on analyses of rainfall and topographic surveys, river flow, and other relevant factors.

The 100-Year Floodplain Must Be Protected

Floodplains act as buffers, reducing the number, impact, and severity of floods. Floodplains frequently contain large tracts of wetlands and provide critical wildlife habitat. Wetlands are important in the process of storing and filtering floodwater, and recharging aquifers. The preservation of floodplains helps to control runoff and minimize nonpoint source water pollution.

For more information, please contact: Jack Darin, Sierra Club, (312)251-1680, jack.darin@sierraclub.org, or Charles Jackson, Illinois Environmental Council, (312) 970-0432, cjackson@ilenviro.org.