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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois seeks to support development  
3 that enhances public safety, agriculture, industry,  
4 environmental health, and the overall economy of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Levees are built with the intention of protecting  
6 against reoccurring flood damage; however, in some cases they  
7 can contribute to increased flood risks elsewhere; and

8 WHEREAS, The State should ensure that levees are designed  
9 and built in a more coordinated, systemic fashion; and

10 WHEREAS, The State currently has regulations that help  
11 ensure that levees are designed and built so as to not  
12 exacerbate the potential for flooding elsewhere; and

13 WHEREAS, Levees in Illinois and its neighboring states do  
14 not have uniform heights and no comprehensive policies provide  
15 a means to balance the impact of floodwater elevation  
16 fluctuations; and

17 WHEREAS, Comprehensive processes should be lawful and  
18 responsible so that economic growth can be feasibly  
19 accomplished while preserving the goal of this State to protect  
20 the people of Illinois from unmitigated flood damages; and

1           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois seeks to eliminate the need  
2           for costly flood fighting that often occurs during extreme  
3           flood events creating greater flood risk; creating a plan for  
4           water storage during flooding events to minimize damage and  
5           cost, recognizes the scientific evidence showing that major  
6           rain events that contribute to flooding are happening more  
7           frequently; and

8           WHEREAS, A streamlined process of state levee permitting  
9           needs to encourage and facilitate flood risk management and  
10          navigation improvements; and

11          WHEREAS, State regulatory processes should consider the  
12          regulatory processes of federal agencies; therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
14          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
15          CONCURRING HEREIN, that there is created the Levee and  
16          Floodplain Review Task Force, whose purpose is the following:

17                 1) Conduct a comprehensive review of State and federal  
18                 laws and regulations establishing the oversight and  
19                 management of levees, floodwalls, and planned water  
20                 storage areas in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri; and

21                 2) Develop recommendations to create and implement a  
22                 plan for the long-term management of the State's levees,

1 floodwalls, floodplains, and water storage areas that  
2 balances the needs of agriculture, industry, public  
3 safety, communities, the environment, and the overall  
4 economy of Illinois; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Levee and Floodplain Review Task Force  
6 be comprised of 22 members in the following manner:

7 1) One member appointed by the Senate President, whom  
8 shall be designated as co-chairperson of the Task Force;

9 2) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
10 Senate;

11 3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
12 Representatives;

13 4) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
14 House of Representatives;

15 5) The Director of Natural Resources, or his or her  
16 designee;

17 6) The Director of the Illinois Emergency Management  
18 Agency or his or her designee;

19 7) The Secretary of Transportation, or his or her  
20 designee;

21 8) The Director of Agriculture, or his or her designee;  
22 and

23 9) 13 members appointed by the Director of Natural  
24 Resources in the following manner:

25 a. One member representing the Association of

- 1 State Floodplain Managers;
- 2 b. One member representing American Rivers;
- 3 c. One member representing Prairie Rivers Network;
- 4 d. One member representing the Illinois  
5 Environmental Council;
- 6 e. One member representing the Illinois Chapter of  
7 the Sierra Club;
- 8 f. One member representing Illinois municipalities  
9 bordering the Mississippi River;
- 10 g. One member representing Illinois municipalities  
11 bordering the Illinois River;
- 12 h. One member representing the State's largest  
13 agricultural association;
- 14 i. One member representing the Upper Mississippi,  
15 Illinois, and Missouri Rivers Association;
- 16 j. One member representing levee districts in  
17 Illinois within the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries  
18 project (MR&T);
- 19 k. One member representing levee districts in  
20 Illinois bordering the Mississippi River between St.  
21 Louis and Lock & Dam 19;
- 22 l. One member representing levee districts  
23 bordering the Mississippi River north of Lock & Dam 19;
- 24 m. One member representing levee districts  
25 boardering the Illinois River; and
- 26 n. One member representing the Upper Mississippi

1 River Basin Association; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Levee and Floodplain Review Task Force  
3 shall conduct its meetings in a public manner and complete its  
4 report by August 31, 2018; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge Il. Admin Code Title 17, Chapter 1,  
6 Subchapter h, Part 3700, Administrative Rule Changes developed  
7 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources be delayed from  
8 the Joint Committee on Administrative Rule (JCAR) rulemaking  
9 process until August 31, 2018; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall  
11 serve as facilitator for the Task Force; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the report filed with the General Assembly  
13 shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk  
14 of the House of Representatives in electronic form only, in the  
15 manner that the Secretary and Clerk shall direct; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 delivered to the General Assembly and Director of Natural  
19 Resources.