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1 HOUSE 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15 SENATE 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, who  
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, who shall be designated as co-chairperson  
13 of the Task Force;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           a. One member representing an association that  
2 represents floodplain managers in the State;

3           b. One member representing a national advocacy  
4 group working on Mississippi River issues;

5           c. One member representing an environmental  
6 advocacy organization headquartered in Champaign;

7           d. One member representing a statewide  
8 environmental group encompassing over 80 additional  
9 environmental groups;

10          e. One member representing an environmental  
11 organization with grassroots advocates across the  
12 State;

13          f. One member representing Illinois municipalities  
14 bordering the Mississippi River;

15          g. One member representing Illinois municipalities  
16 bordering the Illinois River;

17          h. One member representing the State's largest  
18 agricultural association;

19          i. One member representing a group that advocates  
20 on behalf of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and  
21 Missouri rivers;

22          j. One member representing levee districts in  
23 Illinois downstream of East St. Louis;

24          k. One member representing levee districts in  
25 Illinois bordering the Mississippi River between St.  
26 Louis and Lock & Dam 19;

1           1. One member representing levee districts  
2           bordering the Mississippi River north of Lock & Dam 19;

3           m. One member representing levee districts  
4           bordering the Illinois River; and

5           n. One member representing a group that advocates  
6           on behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin; and be it  
7           further

8           RESOLVED, That the Levee and Floodplain Review Task Force  
9           shall conduct its meetings in a public manner and complete its  
10          report by August 31, 2019; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That we urge Il. Admin Code Title 17, Chapter 1,  
12          Subchapter h, Part 3700, Administrative Rule Changes developed  
13          by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources be delayed from  
14          the Joint Committee on Administrative Rule (JCAR) rulemaking  
15          process until August 31, 2019; and be it further

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

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