

August 9, 2004

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois Senate
93rd General Assembly

This legislation promotes an important purpose: providing the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago the authority to manage and finance activities related to stormwater management in Cook County. SB2196 proposes avenues to ensure that funds are available to manage and finance these activities. Yet, this legislation also poses a significant hurdle: increasing property taxes to pay for the purposes of stormwater management outside the limits of tax caps and the voter approval process required by them. The challenge, which we have faced throughout state government, is to fund important services and programs without asking the people of Illinois to pay more in taxes. I remain committed to this principle and cannot support legislation that asks for an increase in property taxes.

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9(b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return Senate Bill 2196, entitled "AN ACT concerning stormwater management."

Sincerely,

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor