

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
143 S. MAIN STREET
RED BUD, ILLINOIS 62278
PHONE: 618.282.7284
EMAIL: friess@ilhousegop.org



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
216-N STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217.782.1018

DAVID FRIESS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 115TH DISTRICT

August 12, 2025

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
555 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Dear Governor Pritzker,

I am writing to urgently request your direct intervention in securing immediate action and resources to address the scour hole through the Stringtown Levee in rural Monroe County, Illinois. This is no longer a matter that can be overlooked or delayed—we need assistance now.

Over the past two years, despite Mississippi River levels remaining below flood stage, the scour hole has continued to erode and weaken, causing great concern among local maintenance crews who have had to traverse wet and unstable areas on the residential side (East) of the levee. These conditions raise the imminent risk of levee failure.

On January 24, 2025, state and federal officials, including representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, conducted an on-site inspection and witnessed an alarming scene: an erosion zone larger than a football field rapidly deteriorating, with damage described as “unsustainable” and “approaching failure.”

A breach at this location will be catastrophic and place Monroe, Randolph, and neighboring counties in immediate danger. Lives, homes, farms, and critical infrastructure are at risk. Additionally, historic sites that have stood for generations face potential loss. We have seen the devastating consequences of levee failures in the past, and this threat demands immediate and decisive action.

I urge and request that your office:

- *Direct the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to immediately deploy resources and personnel to assist with on-the-ground mitigation and stabilization efforts.*
- *Work with FEMA and other federal partners to secure emergency funding and ensure state resources are allocated without delay to address this critical infrastructure threat.*
- *Prioritize this project as a high-level emergency to protect lives, property, and the economic stability of the region.*

Your prompt support will safeguard hundreds of families and preserve the vital communities that rely daily on the stability of the levee system. Let me be clear, this is no longer an “if” the levee will break, but a “when.”

This letter is submitted jointly by me and State Senator Terri Bryant. I continue to remain in contact with Federal partners, including US Senator Tammy Duckworth, US Senator Richard J Durbin, and Congressman Mike Bost. We stand ready to assist your office, IEMA, and partners in ensuring the necessary resources and attention are provided without delay.

Sincerely,



David H. Friess
State Representative
115th Legislative District



Terri Bryant
State Senator
58th Senate District

DHF/jsk