



Let your voice be heard in rebuilding the Greater New Orleans area.

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans
Opposes Amended Senate Bill 79
Legislation Reverses Flood Protection Reforms

Citizens for 1 strongly opposes Senator Adley's Amended Senate Bill 79.

Amended SB 79 will dismantle the reform of independent and scientific appointments to the Authorities injecting politics into the levee boards' decision-making. This bill will cancel the reforms of non-political appointments and put the SLPFA boards directly under the Governor's – any Governor's control.

The eleventh-hour amendments to SB 79 preclude Authorities from making decisions, signing contracts, or taking actions that, in the mind of any Governor, may violate some vague concept of "public policy." This vague, undefined term for expulsion of a board member by a Governor without any defined process for review is empty in its true purpose. In its new, amended form, Senator Adley's bill will take us back to the days of flood protection "in name only."

Even if this dramatically altered bill is amended further to remove the vague "public policy" reference, it will still be moving us back toward the old "Louisiana Hayride" era of injecting gubernatorial power and politics into the life-and-death realm of flood protection decisions by levee boards. SB 79 as amended (and as further amended, if that happens) still takes the initiative for removing board members away from the Authority and gives it to the Governor instead. That's not what voters called for in approving post-Katrina reforms!

Our opposition is firmly grounded in the voices of constituents of Southeast Louisiana and *across* the State of Louisiana. Louisiana voters in 2006 spoke compellingly to secure levee board reform by overwhelming approval of a Constitutional amendment ensuring nonpolitical selection of levee board members with scientific and technical expertise and a single focus on flood protection and citizen safety. Likewise, Louisiana voters wanted members of the flood protection authority to be nominated by non-political appointees with scientific and technological background. Should Amended SB 79 become law, this would be nothing less than a betrayal of the citizens of our State, a textbook exercise of government above the law.

Hurricane season begins on June 1. The battle to preserve political independence and the 2006 levee board reforms, however, is well underway. Levee board reforms your constituents voted overwhelmingly in support of may come to an end with this legislative session unless you vote "NO" to Amended SB 79.

Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, grassroots organization.