

Belleville News Democrat
Wednesday, August 26, 1992

GEORGE SCHILLINGER
AMERICAN BOTTOMS
231-4742

DSW 137034

Citizens group pushing for Edgar veto

By Rod Hafemeister

Belleville News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — A citizens group is trying to persuade Gov. Jim Edgar to veto legislation they claim would allow American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment plant to sell their homes for unpaid sewer bills.

The sponsor of the bills, Rep. Monroe Flinn, D-Cahokia, said the legislation would not allow American Bottoms to sell the homes, but only to collect on liens for unpaid bills if properties are sold in tax auctions.

At issue are three bills awaiting the governor's signature that, taken together, would allow municipalities to require buyers of properties sold for delinquent taxes to also pay any municipal liens.

Thelma Humphries, chairman of Citizens Against American Bottoms, said she believes the legislation would allow American Bottoms, which was created by four local municipalities, to use liens for unpaid sewer bills to sell customers' properties at tax auctions.

"No one should have their home taken away from them because they are on a fixed income and can't afford an overpriced sewer bill," she told more than 250 people jammed into the East St. Louis Aldermanic Council chambers Monday night. Humphries and her group have been fighting American Bottoms for several years.

East St. Louis Mayor Gordon Bush said he, Humphries and several others will meet an Edgar representative Thursday to support a veto of the bills.

"We don't like to push folks around," Bush said. "But we're not going to let anybody push us around."

State Rep. Wyvetter Younge, D-East St. Louis, said the bills were part of about 1,000 "agreed bills" the legislature passed in a single vote. "I didn't realize these were American Bottoms bills," she said, urging residents to call the governor's office and urge a veto of the bills.

Flinn said the bills were designed to solve a general problem and not merely for the benefit of American Bottoms. He noted the bills could help East St. Louis collect on liens it has placed for such expenses as weed cutting.

"This was supported by people up and down the state who never heard of American Bottoms," he said.

HBS 854
2947
2950

MEMO

To: George R. Schillinger
From: Sherry L. Amen 
RE: Amendment 5 to Illinois House Bill 2950
Date: 08/26/92

I spoke with Joe Meyer today about charges on properties owned by the county. When that discussion was finished, Meyer changed the subject and talked about the House Bill waiting for Edgar to sign.

Meyer claims to have been a creator and sponsor of the legislation, as well as advisor - testifying before legislative committees to get this bill made law. He offered to fax me the portion that deals with including liens with tax bills - Amendment 5 to House Bill 2950 (attached). (Meyer says the Illinois Municipal League and various urban leagues are very much in favor of the legislation.)

Evidently, the group "Citizens Against American Bottoms" is going to Springfield on August 27 to meet with Edgar and prevent him from signing the bill into law. Meyer thinks there is a strong possibility that Edgar may use his power of line-item-veto to add the phrase "excepting the liens of American Bottoms" to the legislation.

Meyer says that tax buyers are vehemently opposed to the legislation (he says Baricevic received a long letter from Barrett Brachmann, who works for John Vassen, telling why this law would not be good - Baricevic wrote back a letter saying basically "so what?") Apparently, the way the law is now, if a tax buyer buys a piece of property with a lien already on it, he may request a refund.

There is to be a meeting tonight of the Taxation Committee of the St Clair County Board. They will take a formal position on Amendment 5. (Meyer will be at the meeting as a professional resource.)

Meyer says that Baricevic was on the radio last night trying to inform people about the legislation - WIBV.

We could try to contact some of the influential governor's aides to try and convince the governor not to exclude American Bottoms from the bill (Meyer says our name is known all over the state). The names are as follows:

Mark Boozel	Job - Director of the Legislative Office
Dino Purdue	Job - Analyzes Revenue Bills
Kevin Martin	Job - (works with Purdue)
Phone number for the above: (217) 782-6871	

DSW 137035

☒ AMERICAN BOTTOMS TREATMENT PLANT
1 American Bottoms Road
Sauget, Illinois 62201
618/337-1710
FAX 337-8919

☐ SAUGET TREATMENT PLANT
10 Mobile Street
Sauget, IL 62201
618/271-4085
FAX 337-1710

- - - TRANSMITTAL PAGE - - -

Date: 8/28/92 Time: 9:25 (CST)

Please deliver the following 2 pages
(including transmittal page) to:

Name: Kevin Kahill (Please Spellin)

Company: _____

Phone No. 314-694-7518 Fax No. 314/694-1605

From: George Schillinger

Comments: _____

Memo Regarding HB's 854
2947
2950

Multiple Transactions

To: Keith Miller
Company: _____
Phone #: _____
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DSW 137036

Monsanto — MESSAGES

TO:

KC

WHILE OUT, YOU WERE: ☐ TELEPHONED ☐ VISITED

BY

George Schilling

OF

Am Bottom Plant

☐ PLEASE PHONE ☐ IS HOLDING ☐ IS IN LOBBY

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ RETURNED CALL ☐ PLEASE VISIT

231

4742

ACCESS

AREA

NUMBER

EXTENSION

MESSAGE

status house bill

2950

TIME

9:00

DATE

9/3

SIGNED

mb

IN-18 (Rev.11/89)

DSW 137037

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