

I voted No on S. 2039, a bill to allow a State or local government to construct levees on certain properties otherwise designated as open space lands.

This legislation would direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to approve the construction of a permanent flood risk reduction levee on land in North Dakota bought out by FEMA through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These lands are not suitable for development given the high risk of flooding, and I am concerned that allowing for the construction of permanent structures could open the door to future development. Taxpayers would then be left responsible for clean-up following future disasters, which is simply irresponsible.

S. 2039 was not approved by a vote of 126 – 254, because it failed to receive a two-thirds majority under suspension of the rules.