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# Wait for levee fixes

**O**N THE SAME week Gov. Pat Quinn declared 12 counties disaster areas because of flooding, he signed a bill that ignores potential flooding dangers to the metro-east because of its levees in need of repairs.

The state bill lets developers build in the flood plain even though officials know the metro-east levees are going to be declared inadequate by the federal government. Without this bill, critical projects like a senior citizen housing complex could not be built in what's considered a 100-year flood plain.

We understand that lawmakers and area leaders are trying to prevent a chilling effect on

economic development here. However, they also need to think about what happens if this bill encourages new development and there's a flood before the levee repairs are completed.

The speed of the state bill is in sharp contrast to a proposed federal bill to delay higher flood insurance premiums for existing home and business owners once the levees are decertified. Those owners shouldn't be financially penalized because the federal standards for the levees abruptly changed.

That federal bill has moved too slowly. However, state lawmakers and Quinn should have waited on their bill until after the levee repairs.