

News

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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Flider Seeks Input from Local Citizens on Deer Population Control

Lawmaker to share citizens' views with Joint Task Force in Springfield

DECATUR – State Rep. Bob Flider, D-Mt. Zion, announced Wednesday that he is seeking input from local citizens on Illinois' deer overpopulation problem as the lawmaker prepares to meet with a recently formed task force to address deer overpopulation in Illinois.

"I would like to hear how local citizens believe the State of Illinois could best address the escalating problem of deer overpopulation," Flider said. "Deer overpopulation causes far too many fatalities, accidents and property damage in our state, and without addressing this issue in an effective and timely manner, we run the risk of letting a manageable situation get out of hand."

An estimated that 1.5 million car-deer crashes occur every year in the United States, causing more than 150 deaths and \$1.1 billion in property damage. In 2005, Illinois had approximately 23,700 car-deer accidents, and recorded 11 deaths from these accidents.

To explore possible action that can be taken to control the deer population, the state legislature convened the Task Force on Deer Population Control. Flider has been appointed to represent the House Democratic Caucus on the task force, which will recommend ways to manage the state's deer population, maintain or increase deer hunting opportunities, reduce car-deer accidents and their affect on insurance rates, reduce agricultural crop damage, and maintain the health of the state's deer herd.

"I urge any local residents who have thoughts on how we can effectively manage our deer population to contact my constituent service office and I will make their thoughts and opinions known at the Joint Task Force on Deer Population Control meeting in Springfield on Monday April 14, 2008," Flider said. "My goal is that the task force, through the input of animal control officials, deer population experts and local citizens, will produce realistic policy recommendations aimed controlling and managing Illinois' deer population."

Anyone interested in providing input on this issue should contact Flider's district office at (217) 428-2708 or toll free at (866) 453-2066. Flider represents Moultrie County and portions of Macon and Shelby counties.

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