

ASCE Urges Congress to Establish Federal Levee Safety Program

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Congress should establish strict federal oversight of a proposed national levee safety program to ensure that all levees in the United States meet sound engineering design and maintenance practices, ASCE said in testimony this week.

In a statement for the record submitted to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, ASCE said the program should be modeled on the successful National Dam Safety Program.

"Federal and state lawmakers must arrive at a consensus for the future that emphasizes the creation of an overarching state levee authority with the sole power to regulate, authorize, design, build, and maintain Louisiana's levee system," ASCE told the Committee. "Because the federal government has invested heavily in the levee building program, the Corps of Engineers, accountable to the President and Congress, must have real and sweeping supervisory powers over the state levee program, including the power to veto a state or local project, to ensure that the levees are located, built, and maintained in the national interest."

See the complete statement at

http://www.asce.org/pressroom/publicpolicy/inside_congtest.cfm