

ALEDO TIMES RECORD

Illinois Cannot Afford Structural Work Act

May 7, 2008

Illinois residents undoubtedly will again find themselves on the short end of the stick as lawmakers appear poised for yet another long and disappointing legislative session. The "civil war" taking place between the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker is unbelievable to watch, and it makes one wonder if it is at all possible for this situation to get any worse.

Unfortunately, the situation can and did get worse.

In a stunning move, the House Judiciary Committee (Civil Law) passed a measure (an amendment to House Bill 2094) reinstating the Structural Work Act, a law so harmful to the Illinois economy, lawmakers repealed it in 1995. The bill would allow workers injured on the job to sue third parties outside of the workers' compensation system. Only one other state - New York - has kept this anti-business and anti-consumer law on the books.

The Watson-Wyatt Group came up with a conservative estimate of \$170 million in extra costs Illinois employers would incur just to pay their insurance premiums and legal fees to defend these new lawsuits. These costs would inevitably be passed onto consumers. At a time when the high cost of fuel is creating higher prices at retail outlets, it does not make any sense at all to burden Illinois consumers even more.

We simply cannot afford to open the floodgates of lawsuit abuse even wider here in Illinois. Please call your lawmakers today and urge them to stand with us and oppose HB 2094. Working together, we can bring back common sense to Springfield.

Sincerely,
Travis Akin
Executive Director
Illinois Lawsuit Abuse Watch
Marion