Hi, my name is Erin Kirkpatrick and I am testifying today because I care about keeping water clean. And here in Springfield, Illinois, where I live, CWLP has two coal ash ponds on floodplains that regularly leak unsafe levels of several toxic metals by their own monitoring reports. Our local water is the Earth's water, as it flows from Sugar Creek (immediately adjacent to the ash ponds) to the Sangamon, Illinois, and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. Without stronger rules, these ash ponds will be allowed to remain where they are, on the floodplain, with no lining, continuing to leak in perpetuity.

As I understand Title 35, Part 845 of the Illinois Administrative Code (enforced by yourselves), floodplains are explicitly treated as a location restriction for new and existing coal combustion residual (CCR) surface impoundments.

Specifically, Under Section 845.340, an existing or new CCR surface impoundment must not be located in an unstable area or floodplain unless the owner/operator can prove through recognized engineering practices that structural integrity components will not be disrupted.

And the unlined coal ash ponds and landfill contain over two million cubic yards of coal ash and the whole system is entirely
within the floodplain of the Lake and Sugar Creek and would be underwater in the 100-year flood.

Further, Environmental and state rules under the Illinois Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act mandate that coal ash cannot be left stored in direct contact with water or in circumstances that allow ongoing mixing with surface or groundwater – these are unlined ponds, so no cap will stop water from mixing with the ash.

A catastrophic failure would be an environmental disaster.
An ounce of prevention is certainly worth a pound of cure here. We need to do things right the first time.
I want my tax dollars to prevent failure.

Elsewhere, the catastrophic collapse of the Kingston ash pond, the largest toxic waste spill in U.S. history, released more than five million cubic yards of coal ash, destroying dozens of homes, and contributing to the illness and deaths of scores of cleanup workers.

The TVA spill was followed in February 2014 by another disastrous breach of a coal ash impoundment at Duke Energy’s Dan River Generating Station, which released 0.5 million cubic yards of water and fly ash and polluted 70 miles of river in North Carolina and Virginia.

Please make us prevent another disaster.

Thank you.