



Officials attempt to rein in federal government for violating people's rights

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Springfield native Mary Disseler is a long-time volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, where she educates visitors about the legacy of America's 16th president.

PHOTOS BY ERIKA TULFO/MEDILL ILLINOIS NEWS BUREAU

Bears are 'committed' to stadium in Indiana

Statement from team supports possible move

Tom Ackerman

Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Despite recent work in Springfield, the Chicago Bears appear to be poised to leave the state.

Indiana lawmakers announced Feb. 19 that they have struck a deal to potentially locate the football team's new stadium Hammond, Indiana, pending the passage of the bill, according to a report from the IndyStar.

The Chicago Bears released a statement on Feb. 19 further supporting their possible move to northwest Indiana.

"The passage of SB 27 would mark the most meaningful step forward in our stadium planning efforts to date," the Bears wrote in a statement, speaking about Indiana legislation. "We are committed to finishing the remaining site-specific necessary due diligence to support our vision to build a world-class stadium near the Wolf Lake area in Hammond, Indiana."

A communications staff person for Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker also weighed in, following a cancelled revenue and finance committee meeting on Feb. 19.

"Illinois was ready to move this bill forward," wrote Matt Hill on the social media platform X. Hill is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications to Gov. Pritzker.

"After a productive three hour meeting yesterday, the Bears leaders requested the ILGA (Illinois General Assembly) pause the hearing to make further tweaks to the bill. This morning, we were surprised to see a statement lauding Indiana and ignoring Illinois."

The bill in question, Illinois House Bill 2789, would freeze the Bears'

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PENNY PROBLEMS

Shortage causes headaches for retailers in Illinois

Erika Tulfo

Capitol News Illinois

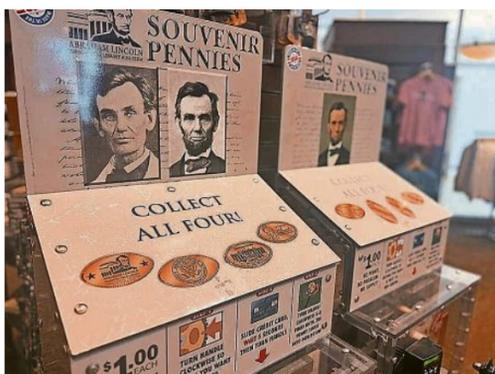
SPRINGFIELD — At the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, visitors can shop for sweatshirts, pillows, jewelry and chocolates using coins bearing the face of perhaps the most-famous Illinoisian, Abraham Lincoln.

But even here, pennies are growing scarce at the cash register.

The museum gift shop, like the rest of the country, is grappling with a penny shortage after the United States Mint halted production of the coin in November, citing the rising cost of producing them.

The lack of fixed guidance from the state and federal governments about how to cope with the shortage of new pennies has left some business owners scrambling to come up with ways to address it.

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Though the U.S. Mint officially halted penny production in November, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will continue to sell penny-themed souvenirs in its gift shop.

DOT threatens to cut \$128M in Illinois highway funding

Hannah Hudnall

Peoria Journal Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Department of Transportation is threatening to pull \$128 million in federal highway funding in Illinois due to the state issuing what the DOT called

"illegal foreign licenses."

The department made the announcement Tuesday following a review of the state's non-domiciled commercial driver's license (CDL) program by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Why is the DOT threatening to revoke Illinois funding?

The DOT said in its statement Tuesday that FMCSA found one-in-five non-domiciled CDLs in Illinois were "issued illegally."

In a letter to Gov. JB Pritzker and Illi-

nois Director of Driver Services Kevin Duesterhaus, FMCSA wrote that non-domiciled CDLs were issued without the state verifying drivers' lawful presence in the U.S., and were made valid beyond the expiration of the drivers'

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