As a state senator, Spartz was caught writing laws that financially benefited her and her family's own interests as wealthy landowners and business owners. In one instance, she tried to remove state oversight of certain protected lands without disclosing that her family's business planned to build on that land themselves.

**Spartz Wrote A Bill That Removed State Oversight Of Wetlands Near Regulated Drains.** “Sen. Victoria Spartz, R-Noblesville, wrote Senate Bill 229, which removes state oversight of certain wetlands near what are called regulated drains, which are thousands of miles of man-made ditches, streams, sewers and drainage pipes constructed throughout Indiana in the past century to alleviate flooding. Hamilton County Surveyor Kent Ward says he brought the idea to Spartz, who is his local senator. He thinks the state overreached when it made the county pay more than $140,000 in taxpayer money to restore a wetlands the county cut down while repairing such a drainage system.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/17/20]

**The Bill Was Opposed By The Indiana Department Of Management And The Hoosier Environmental Council.** “Both IDEM and the Hoosier Environmental Council opposed the legislation, saying it deregulates wetlands in a way that could have significant ramifications on water control and quality beyond this one dispute, but the Senate passed the bill 32-18. The House will consider it next.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/17/20]

**The Bill Was Also Opposed By The Indiana Wildlife Association And The Sierra Club Of Indiana.** “The bill would remove state oversight of such wetlands near what are called regulated drains, which are thousands of miles of man-made ditches, streams, sewers and drainage pipes constructed throughout Indiana in the past century to alleviate flooding. IDEM and several environmental groups, including the Hoosier Environmental Council, the Indiana Wildlife Association and the Sierra Club of Indiana, opposed the bill. They say the bill reaches too far to correct one dispute.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/27/20]

**Environmental Groups Worried The Bill Would Lead To More Flooding, Less Clean Water, And Loss Of Wildlife.** “Lawmakers on Feb. 26 narrowed the scope of a bill that would remove state regulation of certain wetlands before advancing the measure forward in the Indiana House, but environmental advocates still worry the legislation would lead to more flooding, less clean water and the loss of wildlife […] They say the bill would allow surveyors too much authority to widen, deepen or move regulated drains without state oversight, potentially creating situations that could lead to more flooding, loss of wetlands and wildlife. They worry the bill would remove state experts from monitoring certain wetlands while allowing each county to regulate drains differently, creating a patchwork of rules across Indiana.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/27/20]

**Spartz Failed To Disclose That Her Family Planned A Multimillion Dollar Project That IDEM Halted After The Family Destroyed Wetlands In 2007.** “Spartz has her own complicated history with IDEM's regulation of wetlands, one she did not disclose as the bill has moved through the legislature. In 2007, her family planned a multimillion dollar project to develop a Super Target in Noblesville. IDEM halted the project after the family bulldozed and filled in wetlands near a county-regulated drain on the property, because they had failed to obtain state and federal permissions.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/17/20]

**Spartz’s Family Agreed To Resolve The Environmental Issues But They Lost The Land In A Foreclosure Settlement.** “While the family eventually agreed to resolve the environmental issues, the economy soured and they lost the land in a foreclosure settlement.” [Indianapolis Star, 2/17/20]