

Rutherford H. Platt, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Week 5

Rutherford H. Platt is a professor of geography and planning law in the Department of Geosciences and the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He earned a B.A. in political science from Yale and both a J.D. (law) and Ph.D. (geography) from the University of Chicago. He served as staff attorney at the Chicago Open Lands Project before assuming a faculty position at the University of Massachusetts in 1972. He specializes in public policy concerning urban land and water resources. Among many publications, he is the author of *Land Use and Society: Geography, Law, and Public Policy* (Revised Edition, Island Press, 2004) and *Disasters and Democracy: The Politics of Extreme Natural Events* (Island Press, 1999). He was lead editor of *The Ecological City: Preserving and Restoring Urban Biodiversity* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1994). He directs the Ecological Cities Project, a national program of research and outreach based at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has served on many national and regional panels including the National Research Council (NRC) Water Science and Technology Board and several of its committees. He chaired the NRC Natural Disasters Roundtable from 1999 to 2002. In 2002, he was designated a Lifetime National Associate of the National Academies.