

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2009

To: The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor

From: Doug Whitley, President of the Illinois Chamber &
Co-Chairman of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition
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Mike Kleinik, Director of Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC &
Co-Chairman of the Transportation for Illinois Coalition
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Jim Sweeney, President & Business Manager of the International Union of
Operating Engineers Local 150

Terrence J. Hancock, President of the Teamsters Local 731 &
Construction Coordinator of the Teamsters Joint Council No. 25

James P. Connolly, Business Manager of the Construction & General Laborers' District Council of
Chicago and Vicinity

Tim Garvey, Administrator of the Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program

John Henriksen, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers

Eric Fields, Executive Director of the Associated General Contractors of Illinois

Roberta Parks, Senior Vice President/COO of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce

Paul Cerpa, Executive Director of the Hispanic American Construction Industry Association

Robert Guy, State Director of the United Transportation Union

Marvin Traylor, Director of Engineering and Research of Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association,
Precast/Prestressed Producers of Illinois & Wisconsin and
Illinois Concrete Pipe Association

David Kennedy, Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies
(ACEC-Illinois)

Patrick Hosty, Executive Director of the Chicago Area Laborers-Employers Cooperation and
Education Trust

Darick Franzen, Plote Construction, Inc.

Jim Schwarz, Secretary-Treasurer of the Route 51 Coalition

Randell Riley, Executive Director of the American Concrete Pavement Association-
IL Chapter, Inc.

Steve Nailor, Chairman of the Rockford-Winnebagoo County Better Roads Association

Shannon Weber, Political Director of the Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis
and Vicinity

Steven D. Sipes, Mayor of the City of Pana

Bob Smith, President of the Pana Chamber of Commerce

Jim Deere, Secretary of the Pana Industrial Development Corporation

Ricky J. Gottman, Mayor of the City of Vandalia

Illinois Business Roundtable

Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Decatur Chamber of Commerce
Crystal lake Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce
Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Rail Road Association

Re: Capital Program for State Construction Projects

Everyone knows you inherited a bad situation. Your administration represents a new beginning. You have the benefit of much good will and optimism that your approach and experience will deliver us from the frustration, dysfunction and distrust of your predecessor. You can move stalled agendas and get things accomplished.

You acknowledged how important it is for the General Assembly to approve a long overdue capital construction bill. You asked the General Assembly to expedite the passage of a new state bonding and construction program. You asked for the legislation to be approved so you could sign it before May 22. You championed the inclusion of major investment in high speed rail. You said there was no linkage between approval of a capital bill and the state's operating budget.

You said the right things and the General Assembly responded. A new five year construction program that will inject \$26 billion into our economy is ready. It allows the state to maximize billions in federal program dollars. Getting work underway for bridge, highway, rail and transit projects are especially important to alleviate life threatening situations.

It has been ten years since infrastructure investment was a state priority. Many communities and institutions are desperate to see construction begin on critical, but long delayed projects. A significant majority of legislators even accepted the responsibility of voting for the tax increases required to finance new construction.

The nation is experiencing the worst economic conditions since the great depression. The Congress passed an economic stimulus bill that promotes construction. Illinois can and should do the same thing. Everyone knows construction jobs are fundamental to economic recovery.

Illinois has lost over 250,000 jobs since last fall. Unemployment in Illinois is at the highest level in 25 years. Last month, 43 Illinois counties have reported an unemployment rate that exceeds the national average, including 22 counties with double-digit unemployment statistics. Danville, Decatur, Kankakee, Peoria, Rockford and the Chicago MSAs reported unemployment rates exceeding the national average. Job losses continue to be reported at distressingly high rates. People need the work. People want to work. Your initiative can put thousands of people to work throughout our state at a critical time.

June has arrived and the construction season should be well underway. This public works program is important to laborers, tradesmen, professionals, managers, business owners, suppliers of building materials, landscapers, financiers and others. Spending on construction projects will cascade throughout the state's economy and even help replenish government tax receipts.

The former governor was untrustworthy and disrespectful of the legislature. Do not repeat the mistakes of your predecessor as it is unbecoming of a leader who understands the importance of overcoming past failings and moving the state forward in a spirit of collaboration towards doing the right thing.

It is unnecessary and terribly disappointing for you to even suggest a reversal of attitude regarding the linkage of a capital program and the state's operating budget. These matters can and should be resolved independently. There is no value in holding construction workers and an important stimulus to the state's economy hostage while you continue to negotiate with legislators regarding other state obligations and priorities.

Continued delay during prime construction season and in the midst of continued job losses is unreasonable, hurtful and unacceptable.

Tell the General Assembly to send you the capital bills, sign them and get people to work promptly. Such an action is the appropriate signal to the legislature that this is indeed an administration that has a new approach to getting things done. Such positive action will make it obvious you have not lost sight of the big picture and that your administration will keep government moving forward while pursuing the best interests of the state's citizens and taxpayers. We have seen and lived with constant confrontation between the executive and legislative branches of government. Show us a new way.