



Doug Whitley Resigns as TFIC Co-Chair

At the September 23 TFIC steering committee meeting, Doug Whitley announced his resignation as co-chair of the TFIC because of his recent announcement that he intends to pursue a potential bid for the Republican nomination for governor in 2010. To avoid politicizing TFIC and to prevent the coalition from being caught in an awkward political position, Doug graciously resigned his leadership role. The chamber will remain active in the coalition.

According to the bylaws, the two co-chairs are to be the president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce or their designees. Last week, Doug announced that he is designating Jim Reilly, a businessman and member of the Illinois Chamber as well as chair of the Regional Transportation Authority, to be his designee for co-chair. Jim and Michael Carrigan have already begun working together on outreach to win support for a state capital program. I am sure you will all join me in recognizing Doug's leadership and his vision since the founding of TFIC. A big thank you, Doug! Please also join me in welcoming Jim aboard as the newest co-chair of the coalition. Jim brings a depth of political and transportation policy experience to the role. Welcome, Jim!