June 20, 2007

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich  
Governor, State of Illinois

The Honorable Emil Jones, Jr.  
President, Illinois Senate

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan  
Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Watson  
Senate Republican Leader

The Honorable Tom Cross  
House Republican Leader

Dear Leaders of our State:

As you know well, the State of Illinois faces numerous challenges in the coming fiscal year. Any final budget approved by the General Assembly must provide for significant new investments in education, capital improvement and transportation needs, health care and human services, frontline staff in state agencies, and the long-term stability of state-funded pension systems.

Given the state’s persistent structural deficit as well as the inflationary pressures on current state commitments, such as Medicaid, the state will need significant additional revenue to meet these needs. That is why we have previously spoken out against proposals for a “no growth” budget in FY2008.

In the closing days of the regularly scheduled session, with deadline looming, we voted for SB1132. We understood this to be a “baseline” budget to serve as a point of departure for further discussion among all concerned parties, but far from an adequate budget to meet our state’s needs in the coming year.

Consequently, we would request that you continue to work for a realistic budget that both provides for the additional necessary investments as well as raising the additional revenue needed to assure that they are fully funded.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Signature]

[8th District]