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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

January 20, 2105

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The Second Congressional District is home to the most exciting collection of new infrastructure initiatives in the United States.

Most congressional districts (and most states, for that matter) would be envious of our plans to build a new airport, national park, presidential library, toll road, and a 500-acre lakefront development (the old USX site). Remarkably, all five game-changing projects could break ground in the next four years.

Talk about bringing back Illinois.

We write to reiterate our strong, bipartisan support for these nearly shovel-ready projects. Each of these would be self-financed yet ultimately generate a great amount of opportunities and hundreds of millions of dollars in new tax revenues for the state of Illinois.

The Chicago Southland has a history of seeking partnerships with anyone and everyone who's willing to help. That partially explains why these projects all enjoy a long history of political support from "strange bedfellows."

All of the aforementioned projects have strong bipartisan support. The airport – backed by every FAA Administrator since 1985 – has been advanced by Governors Edgar, Ryan, Blagojevich and Quinn plus more than 50 mayors, state legislators and Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Pullman National Park is supported by Senators Kirk and Durbin. The Obama Presidential Museum and Library site committee is led by prominent Republicans and Democrats. And the Illiana expressway was conceived by Governors Quinn and Daniels.

Beyond garnering widespread and diverse political backing, these projects have been endorsed by virtually every major media outlet in the region, and enjoy strong support from the private sector, which has eagerly expressed a willingness to partner by financing the construction in exchange for a fair share of future profits.


In recent months, as the economy continued to rebound, many world-class developers participated in forums to demonstrate their interest in investing in the airport and the Illiana. Meanwhile, Illinois' philanthropic community has been busy assembling millions of dollars in private donations for the Pullman National Park and the Obama Presidential Museum and Library.

As for the airport, we are certain that world-class developers will finance a modest new airfield to complement cargo and passenger services at capacity-constrained O'Hare and Midway. Without a new airport, metro Chicago will continue a decade-long trend of losing aviation market share to Denver and Dallas. But with an airport, Illinois will create tens of thousands of new jobs, according to CMAP, and start generating \$168 million annually in new state income and sales taxes and a boost in local property taxes. Likewise, the Illiana would create 13,000 construction jobs and \$70 million a year in new state taxes.

As members of both political parties from three counties who work daily with business and labor leaders, we urge you to prioritize these nearly shovel-ready projects – particularly the airport. We encourage you to use your first term to prove to the world that Illinois is a pioneer in public-private partnerships and a global leader in business innovation. Working together, we can improve America's heartland with home-grown ingenuity, resources and capital.

During the next four years, we look forward to standing with you at many ground-breakings and ribbon-cuttings as Illinoisans everywhere join us in building a brighter future for America.

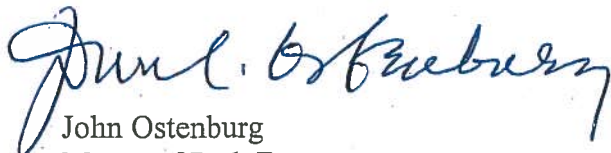
Sincerely,



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Ed Paesel, Executive Director
South Suburban Mayor & Managers Asso.



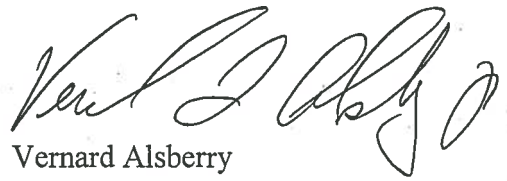
John Ostenburg
Mayor of Park Forest



Michael Einhorn
Mayor of Crete



Don DeGraff
Mayor of South Holland



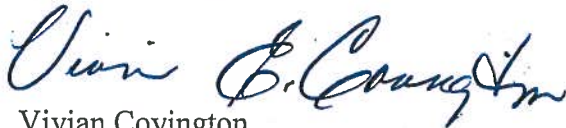
Vernard Alsberry
Mayor of Hazel Crest



Nina Epstein
Mayor of Kankakee



Debbie Meyers-Martin
Mayor of Olympia Fields



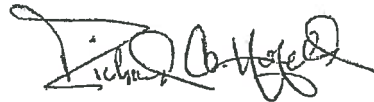
Vivian Covington
Mayor of University Park



Eugene Williams
Mayor of Lynwood



Paul Braun
Mayor of Flossmoor



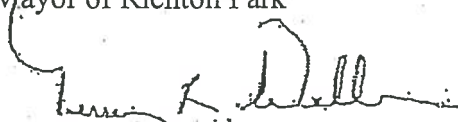
Rich Hofeld
Mayor of Homewood



Rick Reinbold
Mayor of Richton Park



David Hanks
Mayor of Sauk Village



Terry Wells
Mayor of Phoenix



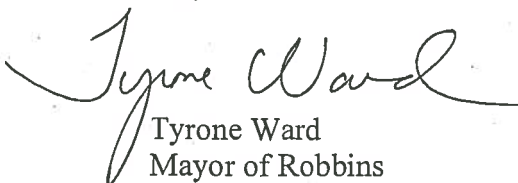
David Owen
Mayor of South Chicago Heights



Robert Kolosh
Mayor of Thornton



Kyle Hastings
Mayor of Orland Hills



Tyrone Ward
Mayor of Robbins



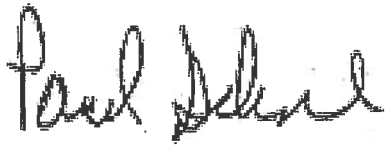
Ronald Denson
Mayor of Calumet Park



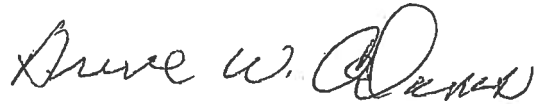
Andre Ashmore
Mayor of Matteson



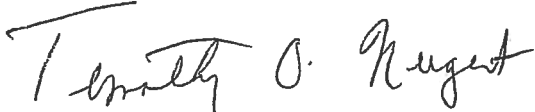
Norman F. Abbott
Mayor of Lansing



Paul Schore
Mayor of Bourbonnais



Bruce Adams
Mayor of Bradley



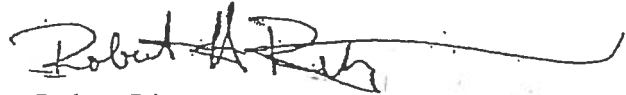
Timothy Nugent
Mayor of Manteno



Kenneth Peterson
Mayor of Steger



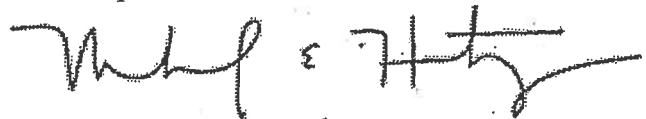
Michael Bossert
Chairman Kankakee County Board



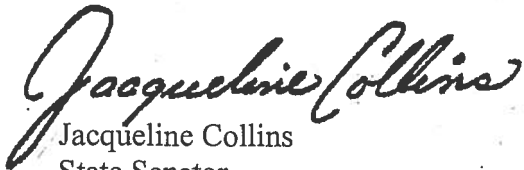
Robert Rita
State Representative



Toi Hutchinson
State Senator



Michael Hastings
State Senator



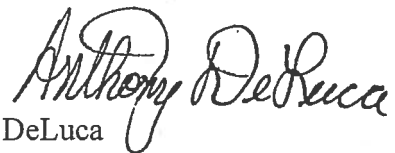
Jacqueline Collins
State Senator



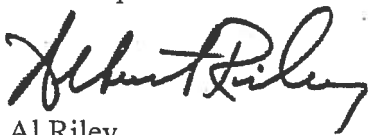
Napoleon Harris III
State Senator



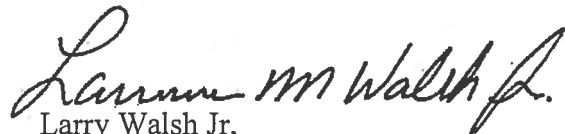
Will Davis
State Representative



Anthony DeLuca
State Representative



Al Riley
State Representative



Larry Walsh Jr,
State Representative