



November 23rd, 2015



The Honorable Governor Rauner, Senate President Cullerton, Senate Minority Leader Rodogno, House Speaker Madigan, and House Minority Leader Durkin:



The failure of Illinois' politicians to pass a budget is having a devastating impact on our economy and its small business community. This inaction is causing our state to fall deeper into debt, hurting small businesses and causing many people to endure unnecessary pain. Hard-working Illinoisans are losing their jobs. The government's failure to pass a budget is having a profound impact on local communities, college students, non-profit agencies, and ultimately, will result in higher taxes.



Small businesses and entrepreneurs drive the Illinois economy and create jobs. In that regard, our organizations are full of hard-working business owners and their employees, who together, support our communities. Simply put, we can no longer watch political leaders threaten the viability of our local economies and do unnecessary damage to the state.



Our members need you to come together immediately, hash out your differences and pass a responsible budget before more people, and businesses, are hurt. Passing a budget now will begin restoring the business community's confidence in the Illinois economy and our government. It will provide clarity to our non-profit members that have been crushed by this budget crisis. Passing a budget should, hopefully, discourage further downgrades to our state's credit rating. Passing a budget will keep businesses in our communities and save jobs.



Again, we strongly urge you to begin working together to strengthen the Illinois economy and pass a responsible budget.



Please let us know when you are available to discuss this matter in further detail.



Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.



Sincerely,



Elliot Richardson, Co-CEO & Co-Founder of
Small Business Advocacy Council

Ken Grunke
Executive Director of
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and
Industry

Shirlanne Lemm
President of GOA Regional Business
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Kim Schilf
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Virginia Glasner
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