

*Advocating for Business*



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS  
BUSINESS ADVOCACY COALITION**

## **RESOLUTION:**

### **Urging the Adoption of a 2008 Capital Bill**

#### **by the Illinois Legislature**

WHEREAS: The Northern Illinois Business Advocacy Coalition (NIBAC), representing 12 Chambers of Commerce with some 6,000 business members, the vast majority of whom operate their businesses in Cook County, is deeply concerned with Transportation issues in the State of Illinois. It was nine years ago that the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor passed "Illinois First", the States last "Capital Bill";

WHEREAS: NIBAC members include the Chambers of Commerce of Arlington Heights, Barrington, Buffalo Grove Des Plaines, Elgin, Hoffman Estates, Lake Zurich, Mount Prospect, Rolling meadows, Wheeling/Prospect heights, and the Greater O'Hare Association;

WHEREAS: It is generally recognized that transportation and other infrastructure in the State of Illinois has been neglected for decades and now has reached a condition that is disastrously affecting the economic welfare of the citizens and businesses of the State. It is critical that Illinois match \$9.3 billion in funds that our Congressional delegation garnered for the state in 2005;

WHEREAS: Former United States House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Southern Illinois University, and Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard and Governor Rod Blagojevich, among others, have joined together to form the "Illinois Works Coalition";

WHEREAS: The "Illinois Works Coalition" recognizes that our current infrastructure requires critical investment and it is our collective resolve to ensure the passage of a minimum \$25 billion Illinois Works capitol program in the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly;

WHEREAS: The Illinois Works capital investment program includes: \$4.9 billion for schools, including higher education; \$14.4 billion for road and bridge programs; \$3.2 billion for public transit, passenger rail, and airports; \$1.1 billion for environment, energy and technology; \$1 billion for economic development and housing; and \$600 million for improved and expanded state facilities;

WHEREAS, Illinois Works will support 700,000 jobs, stimulate our economy and improve our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Illinois businesses and NIBAC support a commitment by the State to enact regular, robust and comprehensive capital funding plans that address the State's infrastructure needs for transportation and capital improvements which at a minimum is:

- Substantial in size and scope;
- Has a revenue source that is reliable and sustainable;
- Has a process to ensure investments are based on clearly articulated State goals; and
- Provides matching dollars necessary to leverage the federal funding available for the State.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NIBAC board of directors urges the General Assembly to adopt regular, robust and comprehensive capital funding plans that address the State's infrastructure needs and that staff is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Blagojevich, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, U.S. Senator Barack Obama, U.S. Representative Melissa Bean, U.S. Representative Mark Kirk, U.S. Representative Peter Roskam, State Senator Matt Murphy, State Senator Dan Kotowski, State Representative Carolyn Krause, State Representative Elaine Nekritz, State Representative Sidney Mathias, and State Representative Suzanne Bassi.

Passed and approved by the President and Board of Directors of NIBAC on this 9th day of May 2008.

Tom Rivera, President of NIBAC