

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN A. FRITCHEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
11TH DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN

Civil Judiciary

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Registration & Regulation

MEMBER

Financial Institutions

Gaming

Telecommunications

Transportation &
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Joint Committee on
Administrative Rules

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E-MAIL

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December 11, 2008

Dear Democratic House Colleague:

There is no question that Tuesday's arrest of Governor Blagojevich and the extremely troubling charges set forth in the federal criminal complaint against him have resulted in an unprecedented crisis for our state and the people whom we represent. Faced with a significant budget shortfall, a national recession, and a vacant United States Senate seat, we cannot afford to allow Illinois to operate without effective leadership in the Executive branch. Simply put, it is imperative to replace Governor Blagojevich as soon as is practicable.

We must initially note that from the standpoint of timeliness, the need to fill the Senate vacancy created by the election of President-Elect Obama is of utmost priority to not only to the citizens of Illinois, but indeed, to the entire country, which is presently deprived of a fully constituted Senate. While we are scheduled to consider legislation that would provide for a special election, the inherent role of the Governor in such a process creates a dynamic that is perilously out of our control. Furthermore, even in the event the bill were to become law, the election process itself has been estimated to carry with it a price tag of up to \$50 million dollars, and will take 4-5 months to complete, months during which both our state and our country will be without a United States Senator. In these volatile times, such an expense or delay should be avoided if at all possible.

There are three essential means by which a replacement of the Governor may be accomplished. The first is via a voluntary resignation by Governor Blagojevich. This would obviously be the most efficient solution and would allow us to quickly return our undivided attention to the pressing needs facing our state. That being said, we have no reason to expect such a resignation to be forthcoming.

The second would be through the filing by the Illinois Attorney General of a Rule 382 motion with the Illinois Supreme Court seeking a ruling that the Governor is unable to perform his duties. While we commend and support Attorney General Madigan for promptly indicating her willingness to file such a motion, both the duration as well as the outcome of such a proceeding are inherently uncertain and speculative. We would also note the comments of the Attorney General indicating her support of impeachment proceedings as an appropriate course of action at this time.

Impeachment Letter to House Democratic Caucus

December 11, 2008

Page -2-

Lastly, Article 4, Section 14 of the Illinois Constitution provides the House with the exclusive authority to impeach the Governor, thereby allowing the Senate the opportunity to convict him and remove him from office. It is our opinion that the Legislature is the body best situated to make a determination of this nature, and furthermore, that such a proceeding could be concluded in a matter of weeks rather than months. There is no question that impeachment is a solemn power that ought to be exercised only in the most extreme of circumstances. We believe that we unfortunately find ourselves in just such circumstances.

As Democrats, we have the privilege to be the majority party in control of the Illinois House. But with that privilege comes a responsibility – a responsibility to the people of Illinois to discharge our duties to the best of our abilities and to do so without delay. To that end, a motion to impeach Governor Rod Blagojevich is being prepared for filing.

Because we believe that it is the best interest of our caucus to show both leadership and a united front with respect to this issue, the purpose of this letter is not only to inform you of the motion, but to obtain your support of its filing. As such, we are asking you to please indicate below whether you support the filing of the motion, whether you wish to be named as a co-sponsor of the motion, or whether you oppose the filing of the motion. In light of the pressing nature of this situation, we would appreciate it if you would please return this page with your decision via fax to 773-871-4012 by noon, this Friday, December 12th.

These are solemn times facing our state but with our leadership and determination, we will emerge from these events prepared to restore, not only the functioning of state government, but public confidence in it as well.

Respectfully submitted,

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN FRITCHEY

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS HOLBROOK

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID MILLER

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BROSNAHAN

_____ **I SUPPORT THE FILING OF A MOTION TO IMPEACH GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH**

_____ **I WISH TO BE ADDED AS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE MOTION**

_____ **I DO NOT SUPPORT THE FILING OF A MOTION TO IMPEACH GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH**

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE