



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 W. RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

December 24, 2008

Paul Orfanedes
Judicial Watch
501 School Street, SW
Suite 725
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Orfanedes:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act ("the Act") request dated December 15, 2008. Please find enclosed a document responsive to your request for "1. Any and all communications between the Governor Rod Blagojevich and President-Elect Barack Obama from November 1, 2008 to the present." There is only one document in our possession that is responsive to your request.

You also requested:

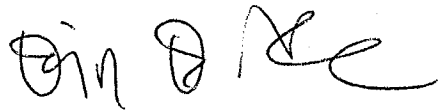
2. Any and all communications between the Office of the Governor, including but not limited to Governor Rod Blagojevich and/or Governor Blagojevich's Chief of Staff John Harris, and representatives of the Office of the President-Elect from November 1, 2008 to the present;
3. Any and all communications between the Office of the Governor, including but not limited to Governor Rod Blagojevich and/or Governor Blagojevich's Chief of Staff John Harris, and representatives of the Obama-Biden Transition Project from November 1, 2008 to the present.
4. Any and all communications between the Office of the Governor, including but not limited to Governor Rod Blagojevich and/or Governor Blagojevich's Chief of Staff John Harris, and representatives of the Service Employees International Union regarding the appointment of a replacement for President Elect Barack Obama's now-vacant U.S. Senate seat from November 1, 2008 to the present.

Please find enclosed a responsive document from the "Obama-Biden Transition Project" to Governor Rod Blagojevich.

This Office has no independent knowledge of all individuals who are currently "representatives of the Office of the President-Elect," "representatives of the Obama-Biden Transition Project," or "representatives of the Service Employees International Union." Therefore, if you would specify the names of individuals from who you seek correspondence, we would be happy to conduct a search to determine whether there are any responsive documents.

Please feel free to contact me at (312) 814-2754 in an effort to clarify this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin E. Knowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" being the most prominent part.

Erin E. Knowles
Legal Counsel



THE OFFICE
of the
**PRESIDENT
ELECT**

December 3, 2008

The Honorable Rod Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CITIZENS ASSISTANCE**

Dear Rod,

Thank you for meeting with me on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Vice President-elect Joe Biden and I were pleased with the open discussion. The insight of the nation's Governors, who are on the front lines of the economic challenges facing the American people, was invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to listen to your perspectives on economic and other issues throughout my Administration.

As you know from our conversation, I am committed to working with all of you. Together, we will save or create 2.5 million jobs, end this recession, and ensure America exits this crisis stronger than when we entered it. A critical component of my plan is identifying and funding infrastructure projects that will strengthen our long-term economic growth while also immediately putting more Americans back to work. As we discussed, I would appreciate any advice you can provide to me and my team on the biggest roadblocks to states in moving forward in getting "ready to go" projects started quickly.

In addition, I welcome any advice you can provide me and my team on revitalizing and reinvigorating the state-federal partnership. I want to make it a priority of my Administration to work closely with you. Governors are on the front lines of so many of the issues that are affecting our country and I will look to your advice and counsel now and in the future on how we can eliminate red tape and remove roadblocks that have previously hindered the progress of an effective state-federal partnership.

Nick Rathod is my point of contact for governors during the transition; you should send your perspectives on infrastructure and rebuilding the state-federal partnership to him at nick.rathod@ptt.gov. Thank you again for meeting with me and for working with Nick and my team in the next several weeks. I look forward to working with you and hitting the ground running on January 20th.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama

CHANGE.GOV
202-540-3000



THE OFFICE
of the
**PRESIDENT
ELECT**

November 17, 2008

RECEIVED

NOV 25 2008

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
CITIZENS ASSISTANCE**

Office of Governor Rod Blagojevich
State Capitol
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich

On behalf of President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden, we want you to know of our strong interest in working with you in the months to come.

As you may know, we have formed a Presidential Transition Team so that the new Administration will be prepared to confront the extraordinary challenges facing our country. Your leadership and experience will be invaluable in this effort, and we hope you will not hesitate to share your insights during this process.

We have created two offices that can enhance your ability to share thoughts with the Transition Team. Phil Schilliro is the Director of Congressional Relations. Phil has worked in both the House of Representatives (as the Chief of Staff for Representative Henry Waxman and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform) and the Senate (as the Policy Director for former Democratic Leader Tom Daschle). Phil can be reached by email at PhilSCR@ptt.gov or by phone at 202-540-3320.

Michael Strautmanis is the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison for the Transition and is the best point of contact for all state and local related inquiries and issues. Michael served as Chief Counsel for President-elect Obama in his Senate office. Michael can be reached by email at Mike.Strautmanis@ptt.gov and by phone at 202-510-8833.

Please contact either Phil or Michael with any questions or ideas you have for our Transition Team. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our nation and for your commitment to working together on the transition and in the new Administration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Jarrett
Co-Chair

John D. Podesta
Co-Chair

Pete Rouse
Co-Chair

OBAMA-BIDEN PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROJECT

CO-CHAIRS

VALERIE B. JARRETT • JOHN D. PODESTA • PETER M. ROUSE

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202-540-3000