

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

The remarkable dysfunction in Springfield continues to damage the state's economy. The inexcusable failure of Illinois' politicians to pass a responsible budget, and the resulting fall-out, continues to hurt small businesses, devastate non-profits, negatively impact college students and cause irreparable harm to our state. The budget impasse is causing hard-working Illinoisans to lose their jobs and people throughout the state to endure unnecessary pain. As advocates for small businesses and local communities, we demand that Illinois' politicians take immediate action to end the state's destructive budget impasse.

Our member organizations are full of hard-working business owners and professionals who can no longer watch politicians decimate Illinois' economy and threaten the viability of the state. We are coming together to demand an immediate end to the political standoff in Springfield. Both parties must unite, hash out their 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 state government. It will provide clarity and hope to our non-profit members that have been crushed by this budget crisis. Passing a budget will keep businesses in our state and save jobs.

Our patience has been exhausted by the political gamesmanship in Springfield. We demand an end to Illinois' unprecedented, destructive political standoff. We will be engaged and active in 2017. We will be watching you and our local legislators. Through the power of critical mass, we will hold those responsible for prolonging this budget impasse accountable for the damage it is causing our state.

Please do the right thing and end the budget impasse now.

Sincerely,



Elliot Richardson
CEO & Co-founder
Small Business Advocacy Council



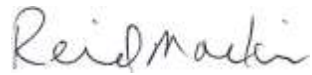
Shirlanne Lemm
President
GOA Regional Business Association



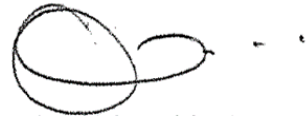
Kaili Harding
President
Schaumburg Business Association



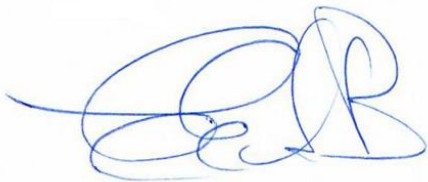
Amara Enyia
Executive Director
Austin Chamber of Commerce



Reid Mackin
Executive Director
Belmont-Central Chamber of Commerce



Alexandra Eidenberg
Board President and Founder
Mom+Baby



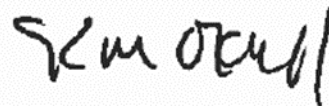
Jane Bushong
Executive Director
Homer Glen Area Chamber of Commerce



Glenn Pasiewicz
Executive Director
Lemont Chamber of Commerce



Teresa A. Dason
Executive Director
Winnetka-Northfield Chamber of Commerce



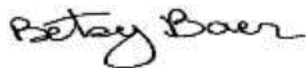
Kevin O'Keeffe
Executive Director
Bolingbrook Area Chamber of Commerce



Virginia Glasner
President & CEO
Highland Park Chamber of Commerce



Shalom Klein
Founder
Jewish B2B Networking



Betsy Baer
Executive Director
Glenview Chamber of Commerce



Katrina Balog
Executive Director
Edgewater Chamber of Commerce



Bill Morton
Executive Director
Rogers Park Chamber of Commerce



Katie Schnieder
Executive Director
Niles Chamber of Commerce



Howard Meyer
Executive Director
Skokie Chamber of Commerce



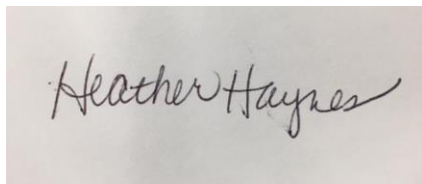
Suzanne Corr
Executive Director
Barrington Chamber of Commerce



Tensley Garris
President
Northbrook Chamber of Commerce



Jeff Rosset
Co-founder & CEO
Chicago Leadership Alliance



Heather Haynes
Executive Director
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce



Kim Schilf
President & CEO
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce

Paul Levin
Executive Director
Logan Square Chamber of Commerce

Maureen Martino
Executive Director
Lakeview-East Chamber of Commerce