



NEWS

From the Illinois Senate

State Senator Dave Koehler

For immediate release

May 20, 2009

Further information:

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KOEHLER HELPS PUSH CAPITAL BILL THROUGH SENATE

SPRINGFIELD—State Sen. David Koehler (D-Peoria) voted in favor of a capital improvement plan today in Springfield.

Two of the larger projects included in the plan are an upgrade to Technology Boulevard in East Peoria and an upgrade to Veterans Parkway in Pekin.

The governor of Illinois has not signed a capital bill into law for a decade, so the state's infrastructure is sorely in need of an upgrade. The plan will also put hundreds, possibly thousands, of unemployed and underemployed citizens back to work. They will repair crumbling roads, modernize schools, and work on aging water and sewer lines.

“On average, my district has seen a 3.6 percent jump in unemployment over the last year,” Koehler said. “The capital construction projects will put people back to work—on top of the federal stimulus programs. Restoring employment will speed our economic recovery. As more people recover their incomes, they will be able to put more money back into the economy and get off the unemployment roles.”

The program will also benefit Illinois businesses that supply building materials and the like.

“After last month's road repair bill passed, the contractor for the I-74 project stated that he had just purchased new Caterpillar equipment,” Koehler said. “That's the point of all this. Put people to work and circulate money to jumpstart the economy.”

Improved infrastructure will help existing Illinois businesses and encourage new businesses to locate here. Many major companies depend upon well-maintained roads to get their products from factory to consumer. Corporations also carefully consider public facilities like schools, sewers and water lines when choosing a location.

“Finishing these projects should help create a business-friendly environment in Illinois,” Koehler said. “Businesses do not move into communities with rutted roads and backed

up sewers. They do move into communities with excellent schools and good, accessible roads and rails. Another major selling point of this plan is the inclusion of green projects, which will help put Illinois at the forefront of the Green Revolution.”

To pay for this program, the Senate raised more than \$1 billion from ongoing, annual revenue sources. Much of this money comes from closing loopholes and raising fees that have been untouched for over a decade. The plan also ends Road Fund diversions, which ensures money for road maintenance goes to Illinois’ highways and byways; increases safety, which provides new funds for improved railroad crossings; and creates a Capitol Projects Fund, which increases transparency and accountability.

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