



# NEWS

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**From the Illinois Senate**

***State Senator Dave Koehler***

**For immediate release**

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**Further information:**

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**Koehler assigned as Chair of Illinois Senate Committee on Local Government**

*Also assigned as Vice-Chair of the Illinois Senate Committee on Energy*

**SPRINGFIELD** – State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) has been assigned to five committees in the Illinois Senate for the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The committee process is designed to help lawmakers hear the merits or drawbacks of legislation before the General Assembly. The committees are also where lawmakers can amend the language of a bill, changing the prospective law entirely or just slightly.

Of the five committees, Senator Koehler will serve as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Local Government. As Chair, Senator Koehler will lead meetings of the committee charged with hearing legislation that deals with issues important to communities across the state.

“During this session of the General Assembly, I look forward to working with the numerous groups of citizens who care about their communities and come to the State Capitol to work within the legislative system for change in their towns and neighborhoods. Here, they will find a fair committee that honors all sides in a debate and respects the system,” Senator Koehler said.

Senator Koehler has also been assigned as Vice-Chair of the Senate Energy Committee. This committee hears legislation dealing with how the state deals with its energy production and regulation. The committee also looks into the impact those policies have on Illinois citizens.

“One of the most important issues facing, not only our state and nation, but our globe, is how we deal with the growing demand for energy and our shrinking energy resources,” Koehler said. “How we begin to deal with this problem will help future generations contend with many of the issues we know they are going to face down the road.”

Koehler also has been designated a member of the Senate’s Transportation, Agriculture & Conservation and Higher Education Committees.

“As a member of the Transportation, Agriculture and Higher Education Committee, I feel I am in a good position to work toward many of the goals I have fought for most of my career. First, ensuring that people have access to a good, solid education that teaches them what is needed to succeed in life is fundamental,” Senator Koehler said. “Without that, one cannot receive the skill set needed for the high paying jobs we are working to get.”

“Some of those jobs are in the transportation and agriculture sector. With former Congressman Ray LaHood as Transportation Secretary, I know I will work as hard as possible to ensure we get the funds needed to repair our crumbling infrastructure,” Koehler said. “Also, we are blessed to live in an area of the nation where agriculture is the number one industry. This just doesn’t mean farms, but agri-business and agri-science jobs. These are jobs requiring a high degree of education and I feel these committee assignments put me in a great place to help the Peoria region grow and thrive as we move forward.”

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