



NEWS

From the Illinois Senate *State Senator Dave Koehler*

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Koehler: “We are closing this chapter of Illinois history and moving forward to do the work of the people.”

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) voted to remove Rod Blagojevich from the office of Governor of the State of Illinois in the Illinois Senate. The decision, a unanimous vote, came after four days of an impeachment trial that saw the presentation of evidence convincing a majority of legislators that Mr. Blagojevich had used the power of his office for his own personal and political gain.

Blagojevich was arrested by federal authorities on December 9th of last year on charges that he had sought personal gain in exchange for naming someone to the United States Senate seat left vacant after the election of President Barack Obama. During presentation of evidence at the impeachment trial, the prosecution presented evidence related to this case that include wiretap recordings dealing with the alleged shakedown of a prospective campaign contributor, as well as evidence relating to wrong doing in regards to hiring practices and the enacting of programs without approval from the General Assembly among other items.

“A vast majority of the people involved in Illinois state government are good, decent and hard-working people,” said Koehler. “They come to work everyday to do the job they were either hired or elected to do. Mr. Blagojevich shouldn’t be held up as an example of the people who are working for the people of Illinois. His conduct has been appalling and when you conduct business in the way that he has, this is what happens.”

Upon the unanimous vote for removal of Mr. Blagojevich from office in the Illinois Senate, Patrick Quinn has been elevated to the office of Governor. Senator Koehler anticipates a good working relationship with the new Governor and is hard at work on the agenda for the legislative session currently underway in Springfield.

“I look forward to joining Governor Quinn in changing the system of governing and politics in Illinois,” Koehler said. “We will work to toughen the laws even more for campaign finance so we can truly turn the corner and clean up Illinois’ image. We are closing this chapter of Illinois history and moving forward to do the work of the people.”

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