



NEWS RELEASE

Illinois Senate Democratic Caucus, Communications Department

State

Senator Dave Koehler

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Koehler named “Good Friend” of Illinois townships

Springfield – State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) received Township Officials of Illinois’ (TOI) “Good Friend” award at a ceremony earlier this week.

“Senator Koehler is a true friend to Township Government and has been an outstanding leader as Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee,” said Bryan Smith, Executive Director of TOI.

Townships are the oldest still-existing form of government in the United States. They were first created in Illinois in 1848, and 85 of Illinois’ 102 counties have township governments. Township governments are responsible for maintaining local roads and bridges, providing assistance to indigent people and families, and property tax assessments.

“I am honored that the Township Officials of Illinois selected me for this award,” said Koehler, Chair of the Senate Local Government Committee and a former Peoria City and County official. “Townships serve a very important function in Illinois. In many places, they are the smallest, most responsive form of government.”

In addition to fulfilling their statutorily required duties, many townships also provide senior programs, youth programs, and assistance to the disabled. They also operate public parks, recreational facilities, health centers, and provide cemetery maintenance.

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