



NEWS

From the Illinois General Assembly
State Senator Dave Koehler

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Senator Koehler Reacts to the Governor's State-of-the-State Address

SPRINGFIELD— Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) agrees with Governor Quinn that creating and keeping jobs in Illinois should be the top priority this legislative session.

“I agree with Governor Quinn that job growth is the key to revitalizing our state—especially long-term jobs with strong growth potential,” said Koehler. “With Illinois’s unemployment rate nearing 11 percent and the state bleeding manufacturing jobs, we must find a sustainable job solution. I believe the governor is on the right track when he points to emerging technologies like renewable energy and biotechnology.”

In his speech today, Quinn emphasized the need to lay a strong foundation for future economic growth and create a culture of work. He particularly emphasized the potential of job growth in green-collar jobs, mentioning renewable energy sources like bio-fuel and wind turbines. Sen. Koehler has long been a strong advocate of green technology development and has sponsored legislation supporting Peoria-area industries that work in the green manufacturing field.

“I also believe that Governor Quinn struck a good balance between the challenges we are facing in the upcoming session and the steps we’ve already taken to set Illinois down the right path,” said Koehler. “We have a long, difficult road ahead of us. We have to come up with a budget that addresses the State’s multi-billion dollar deficit, but it’s important to note that we haven’t been idle.”

Quinn acknowledged that the recession has had a dire impact on the state budget, but he pointed out steps that he and the General Assembly have taken to restore the people’s faith in state government and to begin to reform the deficit.

“Creating jobs and putting in place a budget that allows the State to pay its bills on time are my top priorities this year,” Koehler said. “Good jobs in good industries are what Illinois needs to climb out of this recession. Lowering the unemployment rate will also ease the strain on the State’s budget. As a small business owner, I know the challenges entrepreneurs face in this economy, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to help bring more innovative businesses to this state.”

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