

Dear (State Representative):

We, members of the Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG), are writing to urge that you request the reinstatement of the State of Illinois Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund. This fund is necessary for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and other regional agencies across the state to continue their work in integrated planning, which includes water supply planning.

The Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund was created in Public Act 95-0677, as part of a 2007 revision of CMAP's 2005 authorizing legislation. The Act created a \$5 million annual appropriation from the General Revenue Fund intended as stable, dedicated source of funding for effective comprehensive planning throughout Illinois. These funds are disbursed by the Illinois Department of Transportation to metropolitan and rural areas across the state as follows: CMAP receives 70 percent, other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) share 25 percent, and rural planning agencies share 5 percent.

Since 2005 when it was created legislatively with support from the region's municipalities and business leaders, CMAP has made significant progress in establishing a broad new framework for northeastern Illinois to conduct integrated planning of land use, transportation, water, housing, environment, and many other quality-of-life issues. The Regional Water Supply Planning Group, under CMAP leadership, is charged with developing recommendations for sustainable water demand and supply management for 11 counties in the northeastern Illinois region. This diverse group has 35 delegates representing 9 sectors and is finalizing a long-range plan that integrates water and land-use planning to help ensure availability of water resources to 2050. This effort was initially funded by state appropriation in accordance with Executive Order 2006- 01, but that funding was discontinued in 2008 with partial restoration of funding for one year. Since then, the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund has supported this effort, and implementation of the plan will also depend on reinstatement of this fund. Additionally, the agency's *GO TO 2040* process is developing the first comprehensive regional plan since Daniel Burnham's *Plan of Chicago* in 1909, and CMAP is coming to be viewed across the seven counties of metropolitan Chicago as the best hope for accommodating an additional 2.8 million residents expected by 2040.

Loss of the Comprehensive Regional Planning fund would have extremely negative consequences for the region and the state. In addition to the important non-transportation work that it supports, the fund provides an essential match of CMAP's federal transportation planning dollars. Without the match, our agency and region would forfeit close to \$11 million annually in federal planning funds, jeopardizing \$2 billion of transportation projects each year.

We urge you to help in restoring this fund, the loss of which will cause significant harm for Illinois and metropolitan Chicago, by ensuring that its reinstatement is a high priority as the legislative session gets underway. Please let us know what the members of the Regional Water Supply Planning Group can do to help you convince the Governor and the General Assembly that the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund must be reinstated.

Sincerely,