May 17, 2017

Dear Illinois State Lawmakers,

As the leaders of 275 cities, towns and villages in the greater Chicago region, we recognize the enormity of our state’s budget crisis and respect the difficult decisions you must consider to put Illinois back on the road to fiscal health. While we support efforts to reach a bipartisan consensus to pass a budget and end the current impasse, we wholeheartedly reject any attempt to do so by reducing the local share of the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) or other sources of local government revenue.

Balancing the state budget on the backs of local governments is not really balancing the budget at all, it is simply shifting yet another burden to local taxpayers. Reducing the local share of LGDF or other sources of local government revenue would result in far fewer resources available to provide public safety, economic development, transportation and housing for residents.

It is in our respective municipalities where we must continue to find new revenue sources to meet the rising costs of state mandates. Thus, it is important that any new budget provide meaningful relief from current state mandates.

The state budget impasse has increased costs to local governments and municipalities due to delayed and deferred payments, and delayed local projects caused by the increased cost of bond issuances. Further, the budget crisis has put limitations on our ability to compete in the global economy and increased uncertainty for local governments as we do our own budgeting and capital planning for transportation, housing and other critical infrastructure.

Raiding local government revenue sources would be irresponsible, ineffective, and short-sighted.

Very respectfully,

Robert J. Nunamaker
Executive Board Chairman
President, Village of Fox River Grove

Rahm Emanuel
Executive Board First Vice Chairman
Mayor, City of Chicago

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove

Rahm Emanuel
Executive Board First Vice Chairman
Mayor, City of Chicago
Additional Signatories:

**Representing the Du Page Mayors and Managers Conference**
David Brummel
Mayor, City of Warrenville
President, Du Page Mayors and Managers Conference

Martin T. Tully
Caucus Executive Board Member
Mayor, Village of Downers Grove

**Representing the Lake County Municipal League**
Joseph Mancino
Executive Board Second Vice Chairman
Mayor, Village of Hawthorn Woods
President, Lake County Municipal League

**Representing the Metro West Council of Governments**
Jeffery D. Schielke
Caucus Executive Board Member
Mayor, City of Batavia

Steve Ward
President, Village of South Elgin
President, Metro West Council of Governments

**Representing the Northwest Municipal Conference**
Karen Y. Darch
Caucus Executive Board Member
President, Village of Barrington

Sandra E. Frum
Executive Board Member
President, Village of Northbrook

Harriet Rosenthal
Mayor, Village of Deerfield
President-Elect, Northwest Municipal Conference

**Representing the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association**
John A. Ostenburg
Executive Board Secretary
Mayor, Village of Park Forest
President, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

Paul S. Braun
Caucus Executive Board Member
Mayor, Village of Flossmoor

**Representing the Southwest Conference of Mayors**
Gerald R. Bennett
Caucus Executive Board Member
Mayor, City of Palos Hills
President, Southwest Conference of Mayors

**Representing the Will County Governmental League**
Jim Holland
Immediate Past Caucus Board Chairman
Mayor, Village of Frankfort

Teresa Kerne
Caucus Executive Board Member
Mayor, Village of Diamond
President, Will County Governmental League

**Representing the McHenry County Council of Governments**
Richard E. Mack
President, Village of Ringwood
President, McHenry County Council of Governments