



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.
Morrissey*

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR MORRISSEY RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S VETO OF SENATE BILL 1849

ROCKFORD, IL: AUGUST 28, 2012, – Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey responded today to Governor Quinn's veto of Senate Bill 1849. The Mayor expressed disappointment at the Governor's failure to approve the current gaming bill but was optimistic that work in the November veto session could result in approval of a Rockford based gaming operation.

"While I am disappointed that the Governor didn't sign the bill in its current form, I am encouraged by the continued support from both the Governor and Legislative leaders for a bill that would include a casino for the City of Rockford while strengthening State-wide ethics provisions." stated Mayor Morrissey.

"I spoke with the Governor's Legislative Office today as well as with House Leader Lang and Senate President Cullerton. While I continue to support the need for any gaming bill to protect against ethics violations, I join the majority of voters across the State who want a gaming bill approved that will support immediate jobs and economic development tools for the State," added Mayor Morrissey.

Polling done across the State of Illinois demonstrates wide voter support for a gaming bill that would create over 20,000 jobs for the State of Illinois without raising taxes. In Governor Quinn's veto message, he indicated support for a bill that would create jobs for the State but repeated his demand for a ban on campaign contributions from gaming operators.

Mayor Morrissey supports Governor Quinn's call for collaboration with the General Assembly and other interested parties to reach an agreement on this long-debated issue. Mayor Morrissey also supports Governor Quinn's call for comprehensive public pension reform, including reform of downstate Fire and Police pension systems.

"The recession continues to plague Rockford and our surrounding communities. Gaming alone is not the answer. But as a border community, we face continued loss of revenues from gaming concerns outside the State that will only get worse if a new Beloit Indian Casino is built first," stated Mayor Morrissey.

"We cannot afford to delay further action on meaningful public employee pension reform. We also cannot afford continued delay on a gaming bill that would help the State create jobs and protect Illinois revenues from out-of-state competition. I look forward to action in the November veto session on both fronts," added Mayor Morrissey.

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