

**2008-315**

**SPECIAL SESSION PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, it has been nearly nine years since the Illinois General Assembly has passed a comprehensive capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, a capital infrastructure plan will provide much needed resources into repairing and maintaining our State's roads, bridges, and schools, will spur economic development, and create and support thousands of new jobs;

WHEREAS, a capital infrastructure plan would further leverage additional federal and local funds for the State's infrastructure needs;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2008, the *Illinois Works Coalition* was formed in order to engage a bipartisan working group which could draw expertise from business, labor, and local leaders across the State in order to focus attention and help pass a statewide capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, the *Illinois Works Coalition* convened meetings with legislative leaders and citizens across Illinois to discuss a comprehensive plan that could pass both chambers of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2008, the Co-Chairs of the *Illinois Works Coalition*, former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Dennis Hastert and Southern Illinois University President Glenn Poshard, announced the *Coalition's* recommendations for a \$34 billion comprehensive capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Illinois Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson, Illinois House Minority Leader Tom Cross, numerous mayors, unions, and associations, and I have endorsed the \$34 billion comprehensive capital infrastructure plan proposed by the *Coalition*;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Senate has passed several bills which could fund the proposed capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, the Illinois House of Representatives has failed to act on legislation necessary to fund the capital infrastructure plan;

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2008, the *Illinois Works Coalition* and I proposed a new \$25 billion capital infrastructure plan, which eliminated the need for expanded gaming as a funding source, in response to concerns raised by certain House representatives;

WHEREAS, the new proposed capital plan is supported by President Jones, Leader Watson, Leader Cross, and Co-Chairs of the *Illinois Works Coalition*, Speaker Hastert and President Poshard;

WHEREAS, the new proposed capital plan contemplates investments of more than \$14.4 billion in road projects, \$4.1 billion in education facilities, \$3.4 billion in public transit and rail, \$800 million in environment and water, \$310 million in State facilities, \$100 million in healthcare facilities, \$425 million in economic development, and more than \$1.4 billion in other critical infrastructure needs for the State of Illinois;

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by Southern Illinois University, the new proposed \$25 billion capital plan would create 443,000 new full-time jobs, lead to \$32 billion in economic activity, and generate more than \$2.3 billion in State and local tax revenues; and

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in duly constituted quorums capable of conducting business, in a special session to commence on August 13, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., to consider the new proposed capital infrastructure plan, along with any other measures necessary to provide for the capital infrastructure needs of the State of Illinois.

Dated: August 5, 2008

Filed: August 5, 2008