



DOWNS GROVE AREA
Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Where Business Happens

April 16, 2007

The Honorable Kirk Dillard
Illinois Senator – 24th District
119D Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Dillard:

On behalf of the Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board of Directors, Legislative Committee and our 700 Members I am writing to inform you of our opposition to Governor's proposed budget, including SB001, the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT).

Although we agree that a solution to health care, transportation and education funding must be addressed, this onerous proposal puts the businesses that are already in Illinois at risk and presents a significant threat on any further economic development, strangling any potential job growth. The burden will ultimately fall on the consumer and completely stifle philanthropic contributions.

Illinois businesses already carry nearly half the state's overall tax burden, 49.8 percent – a figure that is higher than every surrounding state. Imposing a GRT would further increase this burden to more than 55 percent. We ask that you and your colleagues remain vigilant in your opposition. The Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry is opposed to this bill and looks to your leadership; please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you in your opposition to SB001.

Sincerely,

Laura Crawford
President & CEO

cc: Legislative Committee