



Illinois Manufacturers' Association

March 11, 2009

Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor
Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker of the House
Honorable John Cullerton, Senate President
Honorable Tom Cross, House Republican Leader
Honorable Christine Radogno, Senate Republican Leader

Dear Governor and Leaders:

Nearly a month ago, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and Manufacturers' Political Action Committee formed a small working group of manufacturing companies to review Illinois' current campaign finance laws, Executive Orders, and pending campaign reform legislation. The group sought to review the current practices and offer recommendations that could help restore the public's faith in the system.

Our group consisted of a wide and diverse group of manufacturing companies from across Illinois that included both large and small employers, public and private. Some of the companies are regulated by the state while others are not. The spectrum ranged from companies actively engaged in the legislative and political process to others who participate from afar.

After weeks of review and discussion, the working group has crafted a multi-point plan that will result in increased transparency and reporting while guaranteeing full participation in the democratic process. We believe that these are sensible and common sense reforms that can help us move forward toward restoring the trust.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mr. Gregory W. Baise
President & CEO


Mr. Andrew M. Faville
MPAC Chairman

Cc: Mr. Patrick Collins
Mr. Peter Bensinger



Illinois Manufacturers' Association

ETHICS WHITE PAPER

In 1976, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association created one of the first political action committees in Illinois with the goal of electing and promoting candidates for legislative and Constitutional office who embody a pro-manufacturing and pro-jobs record. For more than three decades, the Manufacturers' Political Action Committee has participated in the state political process by making financial contributions within the confines of the law to men and women who support and uphold the ideals and principals of the IMA and our thousands of member companies.

In the past decade, Illinois has witnessed numerous violations of State election and campaign finance laws at all levels of government that have shaken the public's trust in our elected officials and those entities and persons that participate in our representative democracy. In order to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest, the Manufacturers Political Action Committee has refused to make political contributions or participate in Springfield-based fundraisers during the entire spring legislative session for more than a decade.

At this historic time in Illinois history, when lawmakers have taken the unprecedented step of impeaching and convicting our state's chief executive officer, we have the opportunity to work together to pass real and meaningful campaign finance laws – not by restricting access - but rather by opening up the process and encouraging full disclosure.

Our goals and recommendations that we believe should be considered include the following:

- Impose a total and complete ban on fundraisers in Springfield or Sangamon County during the months that comprise the spring and fall legislative sessions. Interest groups should not feel pressured to make political donations and attend fundraisers during weeks when the legislature or Constitutional officers may be making official acts that would impact those groups. The ban would apply to leadership PACs as well with an exemption for lawmakers who represent any part of the city of Springfield.
- Governor Quinn should immediately repeal Executive Order #3 issued by Governor Blagojevich that unconstitutionally limits the ability of select entities to make political contributions to state lawmakers. The former Governor's action was a personal vendetta and is a clear violation of the line separating the Executive and Legislative branches of government.
- The Governor and General Assembly should not impose caps on political contributions. America is a democracy that allows for unparalleled political participation and that right to support candidates for

office should not be infringed. The recent presidential election saw the candidates raise a record of nearly \$1 billion for the election despite the federal "caps". It is clear that caps do not limit or keep money out of the political process. Campaign finance caps favor wealthy individuals and encourage the proliferation of more campaign committees and 527 groups.

- All campaign committees should be required to report all contributions of \$250 or more within 48 hours of receipt. Currently, this requirement is only imposed within 30 days of an election. Campaign committees should also make the best effort to get the contributor's name, address, and employer.
- All campaign committees should be required to report their D-2 reports on a quarterly rather than semi-annual basis. This will allow the press and general public to get a more current view of political donations.
- Every six months, elected officials and candidates for state legislature must report every donation in excess of \$500 in a newspaper of general circulation in their district. The information should include contributors name, employer, and amount of the donation.
- The "pay to play" allegations against Governor Blagojevich are clearly illegal as outlined in the media. However, these acts were reportedly perpetrated by contractual lobbyists who sought to raise money from their clients in exchange for an official act. A new reporting mechanism should be adopted that requires any registered lobbyist in the State of Illinois when attending or making a contribution at a fundraiser to disclose on whose behalf they are participating.
- The primary election date should be moved from February to a later date in April, May or June that will allow for greater competition in the primary and a shorter general election season.

Illinois has an abundance of campaign finance laws on the books. No matter how many laws are passed by the Governor and General Assembly, Illinois will continue to see a small group of individuals and entities who will violate the law and the public's trust. To best restore integrity and honesty, Illinois should focus on increasing reporting and transparency in the campaign finance process.