



THE OFFICE  
of the  
**PRESIDENT  
ELECT**

December 3, 2008

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The Honorable Rod Blagojevich  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
207 Statehouse  
Springfield, IL 62706

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CITIZENS ASSISTANCE**

Dear Rod,

Thank you for meeting with me on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Vice President-elect Joe Biden and I were pleased with the open discussion. The insight of the nation's Governors, who are on the front lines of the economic challenges facing the American people, was invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to listen to your perspectives on economic and other issues throughout my Administration.

As you know from our conversation, I am committed to working with all of you. Together, we will save or create 2.5 million jobs, end this recession, and ensure America exits this crisis stronger than when we entered it. A critical component of my plan is identifying and funding infrastructure projects that will strengthen our long-term economic growth while also immediately putting more Americans back to work. As we discussed, I would appreciate any advice you can provide to me and my team on the biggest roadblocks to states in moving forward in getting "ready to go" projects started quickly.

In addition, I welcome any advice you can provide me and my team on revitalizing and reinvigorating the state-federal partnership. I want to make it a priority of my Administration to work closely with you. Governors are on the front lines of so many of the issues that are affecting our country and I will look to your advice and counsel now and in the future on how we can eliminate red tape and remove roadblocks that have previously hindered the progress of an effective state-federal partnership.

Nick Rathod is my point of contact for governors during the transition; you should send your perspectives on infrastructure and rebuilding the state-federal partnership to him at [nick.rathod@ptt.gov](mailto:nick.rathod@ptt.gov). Thank you again for meeting with me and for working with Nick and my team in the next several weeks. I look forward to working with you and hitting the ground running on January 20th.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama

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