

Dear Mr. President and Honorable Members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation,

As mayors in the great State of Illinois, we have a keen understanding of our cities' needs. Both cultural and economic hubs, cities are vital to our state's success. Our residents depend on us for core services such as police and fire protection. Our businesses depend on us to provide infrastructure to allow them to move their goods and services. However, we cannot provide all of these on our own; we rely on federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant, Community Oriented Policing Programs, and Federal Transportation subsidies to help provide these much needed services. Our seniors rely on Social Security to make ends meet. As we listen to the discussion in Washington surrounding the debt ceiling crisis, we fear that all of this is in jeopardy.

Failure to successfully moderate the discussion and bring both parties to resolve this crisis is unacceptable. It will cause grave damage for our cities — we simply cannot handle another recession. Instability in the municipal bond markets impedes our ability to build infrastructure and create jobs. Job creation, the top priority of Illinois mayors and Illinois businesses, cannot happen with such uncertainty surrounding the national debt. We cannot emphasize more how great the impact is for our cities and our State if you cannot come up with a solution.

We are asking you to overcome partisanship with leadership and demonstrate to our country that Congress is focused on stabilizing our markets. We are asking you to help create jobs and ensure the success of our cities, our State, and our country. We are asking you to please address the debt ceiling now.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rahm Emanuel
City of Chicago

Mayor Thomas Giarrante
City of Joliet

Mayor Tom Weisner
City of Aurora

Mayor Donald Welvaert
City of Moline

Mayor Don Gerard
City of Champaign

Mayor Scott Eisenhauer
City of Danville

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl
City of Evanston

Mayor John Thodos
City of East Moline

Mayor Gerald Bennett
City of Palos Hills

Mayor Jim Ardis
City of Peoria

Mayor Edward Zabrocki
Village of Tinley Park

Mayor Robert Sabonjian
City of Waukegan

Village President Roger Claar
Village of Bolingbrook

Mayor Gary Niebur
City of Edwardsville

Mayor Laurel Prussing
City of Urbana

Mayor Robert Eschbach
City of Ottawa

Village President B.J. Hackler
Village of St. Joseph

Village President Al Larson
Village of Schuamburg

Mayor Darryl Lindberg
City of Loves Park

Village President Arlene Mulder
Village of Arlington Heights

Mayor Gary Niebur
City of Edwardsville

Village President David Owen
Village of South Chicago Heights

Mayor Leon Rockingham
City of North Chicago

Village President Joseph Broda
Village of St. Joseph

Village President Eugene Williams
Village of Lynwood

Mayor Gerald Daugherty
City of Mascoutah

Mayor Chet Olson
City of Rochelle

Village President Michael Gorman
Village of Riverside

Village President Dale Adams
Village of Rockton

Village President Thomas Gray
Village of Chatham

Mayor Dick Deitz
City of McLeansboro

Mayor André B. Ashmore
Village of Matteson

Mayor Daniel J. McLaughlin
Village of Orland Park

Mayor Gail Mitchell
City of Fairview Heights

Mayor William Murphy
Village of Woodridge

Mayor Mary Jane Chesley
City of Mt. Vernon

Mayor Tom Hoescht
City of Alton

Mayor Gary Graham
City of O'Fallon

Mayor Kevin Hutchinson
City of Columbia

Mayor Dennis Pauley
City of Rock Island

Village President Ray Muniz
Village of St. Jacob