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June 12, 2012

Ms. Ann L. Schneider

Secretary

Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway

Springfield, IL 62764

Dear Secretary Schneider:

I am writing to follow up on the concerns industry raised about IDOT Project Labor Agreements (PLA's). We appreciate that the General Counsel's office has just agreed to renew PLA discussions with an Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA) member. We are hopeful that meeting will take place in the very near future to avoid unneeded labor concerns this construction season.

While the goal of a PLA is to foster labor harmony, recent actions taken by IDOT appear to work contrary to that objective, and will potentially add unnecessary costs to these projects. IDOT's unilateral negotiations with labor unions undermine the concept of collective bargaining, and disregard a variety of critical issues. Most of the IRTBA general contractor members have entered into collective bargaining agreements (CBA's) with a number of unions. These CBA's were bargained in good faith and resulted in work rules which were acceptable to both sides of the table.

The subcontracting provisions contained in the various CBA's were intended to protect contractors and subcontractors via union standards' provisions and union signatory provisions. IDOT's recent actions are subjecting subcontractors to labor-management provisions without the general contractor's knowledge. Additionally, recent grievances triggered under the PLA's have been from unions who had no privity of contract with the aggrieved contractor. Preventing contractor input into conditions imposed by IDOT's PLA is costly and disruptive.

It is also imperative that IDOT consider the conflict which exists with the current IDOT practice on PLA's and standard specifications, rules and special provisions concerning DBE's. IDOT's actions will exacerbate an already sensitive situation.

IDOT's PLA discussions must be transparent, and must consistently include industry representatives to ensure that established past practices of current CBA's are not unilaterally altered. We look forward to further dialogue to ensure a mutually beneficial course of action on this important issue.

Very truly,

Michael J. Sturino
President & CEO

cc: IRTBA Board of Directors

Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association

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