

March 11, 2008

The Honorable Deanna Demuzio
49th Senate District
140 Carlinville Plaza
Carlinville, IL 62626

The Honorable Gary Hannig
Assistant Majority Leader
218 South Macoupin Street
Gillespie, IL 62033

The Honorable Jim Watson
Illinois House of Representatives
220 West State Street
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Dear Legislators:

As you are all well aware of the financial impact the closure of both the Monterey and Crown II mines have had on Macoupin County government, we are writing to ask for your support.

Senator Demuzio has filed SB 2445 that would allow for counties with active coal mines to retain a greater portion of the sales tax generated from the sale of coal to be used for local economic development projects. While this bill is in a draft phase, we feel, this concept would give us a valuable, yet modest, funding stream to enhance our local and regional economic development efforts.

Enclosed is the Financial Blueprint that was presented to the Macoupin County Board and elected officials following mine closures. Representatives from Macoupin and surrounding counties would be available to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this proposed legislation.

As always, we appreciate your advocacy in Springfield and we look forward to working with you as we seek ways to better our economic development efforts and as we struggle to meet significant financial challenges.

Sincerely,

Andrew Manar
Chairman of the Board

Enclosure