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STATE OF ILLINOIS



DONNE E. TROTTER
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP
STATE SENATOR - 17TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS I, CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS II, VICE-CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS III
ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

COMMISSIONS:

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT FORECASTING
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

June 3, 2009.

ABC News Chicago

Fax: 646-505-5782

Dear [REDACTED]

The Civic Federation's righteous indignation is off target again. Their ire at the General Assembly for not cutting programming or raising taxes and tying in the Capital budget shows their lack of understanding of the Budget process.

The Capitol Budget generates its dollars from an entirely different revenue stream. In this case, from enhanced liquor taxes, raised license fees, registration fees, video gaming, candy taxes, and lottery management. Additionally, bonds are created and sold over years to create that pot of money.

Conversely, the General Revenue Fund is made up of: income taxes, sales taxes, federal dollars and other state funds. These are two completely different animals.

The projects funded by the Capital Budget addresses our infrastructure needs, some immediate others not. Restoring the Jarrot Mansion may or may not be done this year. The capital upgrades range from air conditioning, heating, repairing the roof to normal maintenance of the Capital Complex which also includes: The Stratton Office Bldg, the Hall of Flags, the State Library, the Museum etc.

Finally the 423 million dollars in projects distributed throughout the State are for those community projects such as viaduct repair, street repair, sewers, and upgrades of equipment in Community hospitals, etc. not identified in previous budgets. Members know first hand where those resources are best directed.

I do share the Civic Centers' frustration with the House of Representatives not passing a budget to help our State get back on its feet. But if you are going to criticize—it helps to have the facts straight.

Sincerely,


Donne E. Trotter
Illinois State Senator