

**Final Letter**

**Final Letter**

**Final Letter**

**Final Letter**

March 30, 2007

Honorable Eddie Washington  
State Representative 60<sup>th</sup> District  
149 S. Genesee St.  
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Dear State Representative Washington:

I have witnessed for a number of years an economic decline within most of our black communities. It is because of this area of concern that the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce was organized, along with its twenty five other chapters around the State.

We are implementing a proactive plan to bring about economic and community growth and development. Although this is great news, we can't do it alone and we are seeking your help. We need to know that our political leaders are in support of this statewide effort to unify minority owned businesses behind a common goal of economic development in depressed and/or underserved communities.

In our effort to raise the awareness of issues confronting the minority owned business enterprise, the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, its affiliates, along with over 500 minority business owners from across the state have plans to be in Springfield on April 20, 2007. We will meet on the east lawn steps near the Lincoln statue at 9:30 am and will follow with a press conference at 11:00 am in the Capitol.

We are contacting our legislators for their support of minority owned businesses and will reveal specifically our agenda and how you can help the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce and its 25 chapters accomplish our statewide initiative.

We also recognize that you may have a special initiative that you feel passionate about that will add economic growth and development. If your initiatives are in line with our goals and objectives, I am willing to discuss them with our State Chamber to see if we can add them to our agenda.

What I am requesting from you is your presence at 9:30 am and for our news conference at 11:00 am to hear our objectives for this effort, and for you to stand with us in this economic and community development focus.

It is my hope that I can speak with you ahead of time about how you can help the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce accomplish our goals. I believe our goals are not out of line with those you have set to help serve your constituents who are seeking more economic opportunities.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact me at (your contact number). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Gass Sr.  
President, Black Chamber of Commerce of Lake County, Inc