

Illinois House of Representatives

102nd General Assembly



March 7, 2022

Dear Governor Pritzker:

We are writing to ask your administration to freeze any unreleased funds associated with four projects contained within the 2019 Rebuild Illinois initiative which are tied directly to indicted former Speaker Mike Madigan.

The massive 22-count indictment of Madigan calls into question the legitimacy of these projects and whether they inured to the benefit of the community and the taxpayers or whether they were advanced at the behest of Madigan on behalf of or to benefit his private law clients or other politically-connected individuals or entities.

According to a January 2022 report published in the Sun-Times, the 2019 Rebuild Illinois capital package contained \$144M of projects directly tied to former Speaker Madigan. Records show that among other projects, Madigan secured \$98M to address train brake noise outside three hotels near Midway Airport owned by two brothers, who were clients of Madigan's property tax business. According to the Better Government Association, the brothers said they never requested the funding. The report also identified three additional projects tied to Madigan, totaling \$6M for a control tower at Lewis University Airport in Romeoville, \$31M for The Academy for Global Citizenship, a charter school near Madigan's former House district, and \$9M for John Hancock College Prep, a Chicago public high school in Madigan's former district. According to the BGA, the Academy received tens of millions more than it requested and no funding was requested for John Hancock by CPS.

Although some of the funding for these projects may have already been allocated, and projects completed or underway, we request another layer of review to determine whether they were an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. If not, and any unallocated funding remains, the General Assembly should reallocate the funds for much-needed capital or infrastructure needs.

We applaud your strong support of much-needed school projects, critical infrastructure needs, roads and bridges, mental health clinics, food pantries and other legislative priorities via the Rebuild Illinois program.

Likewise, we appreciate your strong rebuke of Madigan's actions as alleged in the indictment and share your view that they constituted a stark violation of the public trust. We join you in your commitment to ensure accountability and integrity in state government and am hopeful we can work together to restore not only the misappropriated public dollars but the trust that Illinoisans have in their elected officials.

Thank you,

Rep. Ann M. Williams

Rep. Terra Costa Howard

Rep. Deb Conroy

Rep. Lindsey LaPointe

Rep. Kelly Cassidy

Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz

Rep. Jonathan Carroll

Rep. Kathy Willis

Rep. Anne Stava-Murray

CC:

Senate President Don Harmon

Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch