



## **Letter: Pass capital plan to fund Q-C projects**

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Each of the past 10 years the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce, with our many public and private sector partners, has developed a list of regional community projects that are crucial to our continued growth and community vitality. Each year a delegation of community leaders present that list to state elected leaders and agency heads during our annual Quad City Day in Springfield.

It has been eight years since Illinois has had a capital budget. Our list of unfunded community projects has grown to \$416 million and includes priorities such as expansion of Western Illinois University -- Quad-Cities, Amtrak passenger rail to Chicago, local school construction projects, roads, and transit to name a few.

The governor has outlined a \$25 billion capital program that would make an investment in Illinois' infrastructure. We urge Gov. Rod Blagojevich, legislative leaders and the Illinois General Assembly to work together to pass a capital budget that identifies a fair and equitable funding source that includes a comparable share of the budget to address our region's growing needs.

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