



June 12, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The undersigned state and national associations of museums that serve Illinois join together to express their concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

Museums attract tourists to Illinois and contribute to our economy. Museums also enhance the quality of life for people of all ages in Illinois. Museums are important educational assets: community anchors, places of engagement, trusted sources of knowledge and research, proven economic engines for our communities, and vital resources for our teachers and students. Museums are the repositories of our important artifacts and cultural memory. Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections.

We very much hope that we can work with you to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and keep it fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Sack
Executive Director
Association of Midwest Museums

Kate Neumiller Schureman
President
Illinois Association of Museums

Katherine M. Finley
Executive Director
Organization of American Historians

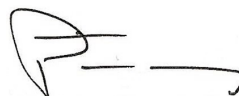


Gary T. Johnson
President
Museums In the Park





Douglas S. Jones, Ph.D.
President
Association of Science Museum Directors

Patrick Moore
President
National Council on Public History




Ra Joy
Executive Director
Arts Alliance Illinois



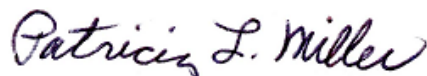

Pamela Rohleder
President
Kane DuPage Regional Museum Association




Laura L. Lott
President and CEO
American Alliance of Museums




Julia Rose, Ph.D.
Chair
American Association for State and Local History

Patricia L. Miller
Executive Director
Illinois Heritage Association



cc: The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor