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February 11, 2013

Mr. Joseph E. Crowe
Illinois Department of Highways/Region 3/District 5
13473 Il. Highway 133
P.O. Box 610
Paris, IL 61944

Re: Conflict of Interest/Motor Fuel Tax Funds Agreements

Dear Mr. Crowe:

I am disappointed that I have not received response to my letter dated January 28, 2013 concerning your correspondences to the Edgar County Board members and Mr. Aaron Lawson, dated January 4 and January 25. Mr. Patrick and I expected a quicker response from you based upon your determination that the preliminary engineering services contract with Knight and Associates surveying and preliminary engineering and construction guidance contract with Hillard's Bookkeeping Services was not accepted due to your perceived conflict of interest by Mr. Patrick as Edgar County Board Chairman. I explained to you in my letter dated January 28 why I felt your determination was incorrect and expected to hear a response in a timely fashion.

Your letter dated January 25, 2013 does not explain how you determined that Mr. Patrick's signature on the aforementioned contracts was a violation of his recusal letter. What's more disturbing, is your interpretation of his alleged conflict of interest without explaining to anyone how the execution of those two service agreements, either directly or indirectly, provide Mr. Patrick with any financial or personal gain.. We continue to wait for your interpretation of how execution of those contracts are a conflict of interest.

What is equally disturbing is your statement that Mr. Patrick cannot attend an open meeting (County's Road and Bridge committee meeting). How in the world can his mere attendance at those meetings be a violation of his recusal letter?

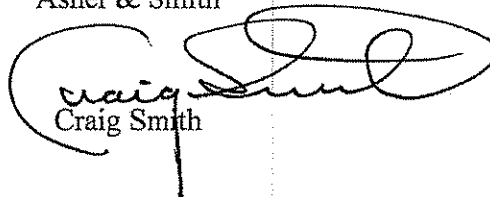
Finally we have requested that you further explain why you have indicated that Edgar County may lose its ability to use State and Federal funds in the future.

We continue to wait patiently for response to my letter dated January 28, 2013. We do need a response as soon as possible since you and your agents made statements and taken positions which I believe are not supported by Federal and State statutes.

If you do not feel comfortable in responding to my letters, please forward them to the office of Chief Counsel for a response.

We look forward to hearing your response in the near future.

Very truly yours,
Asher & Smith



Craig Smith

SCS/hs