

ASHER & SMITH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
ESTABLISHED 1934

1119 NORTH MAIN STREET
P. O. BOX 340
PARIS, ILLINOIS 61944-0340

craig@ashersmithlaw.com

JACK O. ASHER
(1930-2010)

TELEPHONE
217-465-6444

FACSIMILE
217-463-2486

S. CRAIG SMITH

RALPH S. PEARMAN
OF COUNSEL

February 19, 2013

Mr. Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division 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 have advised Mr. Patrick that he can and should attend the Edgar County Board Road and Bridge Committee Meeting on February 25, 2013. I have given him this advise in spite of your and your subordinates' opinion that he cannot attend an open meeting as an elected official. If that continues to be your opinion, please advise me prior to February 25, 2013.

You and your subordinates have written letters and attended Edgar County Board Committee Meetings, wherein you have stated that Mr. Patrick's participation in open meetings could result in the County losing State and Federal funds. You and your subordinates have evidently made the same statement to other elected officials in Edgar County, including, but not limited to, the Mayor of Brocton, the Mayor of Metcalf, certain Township Officials, and School Board Members. Due to the statements rendered by you and your subordinates, those elected officials feel that they will be losing \$15,000,000.00 to \$17,000,000.00 in State and Federal funds due to Mr. Patrick's position as Edgar County Board Chairman.

I have advised you in the past that I have requested that you make public the amount of money that is in jeopardy and why State and Federal funds would, in fact, be in jeopardy.

I believe that yours and your subordinates' statements have created a riotous situation in Edgar County, and that certain elected officials believe that State and Federal funds, such as IKE Funding, will not be received by any taxing authorities. I believe that those statements that you and your subordinates have made are not based on fact, nor have any legal basis. Therefore, I am asking you to respond in writing and rescind your and your subordinates' prior statements.

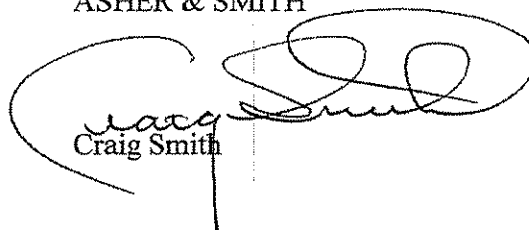
Mr. Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
Illinois Department of Transportation
Page 2
February 19, 2013

Mr. Patrick has requested numerous meetings with you, and I have requested in two previous letters that you respond to allegations contained in your previous letters and in statements made by your representatives at Edgar County Board meetings. We must now insist that you respond in writing prior to Edgar County Board's next Road and Bridge Committee Meeting on Monday, February 25, 2013.

As I have advised in the past, I will be glad to discuss this matter with your legal office. I believe that this is a matter that probably should be handled by legal representatives from IDOT.

Very truly yours,

ASHER & SMITH



Craig Smith

CS/cc