

April 2, 2009

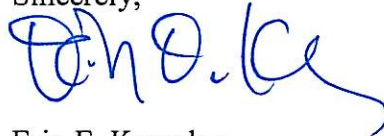
Sage Information Services  
Attn: Roger W. Hurlbert  
13606 Arnold Drive, PO Box 1832  
Glen Ellen, CA 95442-1832  
Via email: [sage1@pacbell.net](mailto:sage1@pacbell.net)

Dear Mr. Hurlbert:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act ("the Act") request for a copy of the memorandum sent from Governor Patrick Quinn to directors and agency general counsels regarding transparency.

Please find enclosed the document responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



Erin E. Knowles  
Associate General Counsel

Pat Quinn  
Governor of Illinois

February 24, 2009

**MEMORANDUM TO AGENCY DIRECTORS  
AND GENERAL COUNSELS REGARDING  
TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT**

*The Right of the People to Transparency in Government.* The People of Illinois have the unassailable right to an efficient, effective, and open state government run by officials and employees of the highest integrity, honesty, and ability who conduct themselves at all times with the public good in mind. A government that shrouds itself in secrecy and shuts out the sunshine of public scrutiny is one that will neither earn nor deserve the respect and trust of the People.

In order to ensure that state government is run for the benefit of the People, it is critical that transparency be a guiding principle and motivating force of government operations. As President Lincoln said, "Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe."

*FOIA as a Primary Tool for Transparency.* One of the primary tools to promote openness and transparency in state government is the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The text of FOIA itself emphasizes the right of the People to demand and obtain information about and from their government: "[A]ll persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees."

*The Presumption of Disclosure.* In order to honor the right of the People to transparency in government, FOIA requests shall be considered and responded to with a presumption in favor of disclosure. In particular, FOIA requests shall be complied with in full conformity with both the letter and spirit of FOIA, and no decision to withhold information sought in a FOIA request shall be made to avoid embarrassment or for any speculative or other improper purpose.

*Exemptions to Be Interpreted Narrowly.* Similarly, exemptions in FOIA shall be interpreted as narrowly as possible so as to appropriately balance the requirement to protect the legitimate interests and policies embodied in the exemptions while also respecting the public's right to know about the affairs of its government.

*Reports from Agencies Regarding Posting of Electronic Data.* Furthermore, all agencies are hereby directed to issue a report to the General Counsel of the Office of the Governor within 45 days describing what information the agencies can post electronically in a proactive fashion. These reports themselves will be made public.

The General Counsel will provide further guidance regarding FOIA compliance, and, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, will also provide guidance pertaining to electronic posting of information.

This memorandum does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of Illinois, its departments, agencies or entities, its officers, employees or agents, or any other person.