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Greenville, Illinois

**Statement on Governor Pritzker's Notice of Removal to Federal Court
in Bailey v. Pritzker, Clay County, Illinois, Cause 2020-CH-6**

Thomas DeVore, attorney for Darren Bailey, provides this formal response to the Governor's Notice of Removal filed in the above matter:

"The Governor's Notice of Removal, filed on the eve of hearing on a Motion for Summary Judgment, could perhaps be the most disreputable invocation of federal jurisdiction ever seen in modern times. Mr. Bailey's complaint raises nothing but questions of Governor Pritzker's authority under specific Illinois statutes. The Attorney General and the Governor have taken Mr. Bailey's Complaint and contrived federal questions where no such questions remotely exist. We trust the federal court will remand this matter back to the Circuit Court of this State where it belongs. Given the prior actions of the Governor and the Attorney General in the State Court, including a request for supervisory review and a specious motion to transfer venue, it is abundantly clear the Governor is intent upon forum shopping. In short, the Notice of Removal is seemingly frivolous and sounds of bad faith."

"A motion in the federal court to return this matter to its rightful home in the Circuit Court of Clay County, Illinois, will be forthcoming," DeVore continued.

The matter of *Darren Bailey v. Governor Jay Robert Pritzker, in his official capacity*, has been pending in the Circuit Court of Clay County, Illinois since April 23, 2020. The case challenges the authority of the Governor, under Illinois law, to issue serial proclamations of disaster under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, *20 ILCS 3305 et. Seq.*, to wield the emergency powers limited to 30-days in the statute as long as he sees fit, and to issue executive orders compelling citizens to stay at home and certain types of businesses to remain shuttered.