

## SOME POLICY ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- 1) THIS IS TOTALLY WITHOUT PRECEDENT FOR A COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO ATTEMPT TO CREATE AND OPERATE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A MUNICIPALITY.

COOK COUNTY DOES NOT OPERATE OR CONTROL A TAXING BODY WITHIN THE CITY OF CHICAGO --- NO COUNTY IN ILLINOIS OPERATES OR CONTROLS A GOVERNMENTAL TAXING AUTHORITY WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY.

MUNICIPALITIES OPERATE AND EXERCISE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY. A COUNTY OPERATES IN NON-INCORPORATED AREAS OUTSIDE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.

- 2) THE PROPOSED DISTRICT DUPLICATES THE EXISTING TAXING AND BONDING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD. THE CITY HAS BROAD HOMERULE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS AND ESTABLISH TAXES FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS.
- 3) THE AUTHORITY BOARD IS UNELECTED AND ANY ACTIONS OR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNELECTED TOURISM BOARD LOCATED WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN HEART OF SPRINGFIELD MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ELECTED CITY COUNCIL OF SPRINGFIELD.
- 4) AS AUTHORISED BY THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION, SMEA, THE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD COULD ENTER INTO A GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO ADDRESS THE EXPANSION OF THE CONVENTION CENTER.
- 5) AS A PUBLIC POLICY, WE SHOULD NOT BE TRYING TO CREATE ANOTHER NEW GOVERNMENTAL TAXING BODY WHEN THERE ARE ALREADY 11 EXISTING DOWNTOWN WHICH DUPLICATES EXISTING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.
- 6) THE APPROACH PROPOSED BY SB 3499 IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER 55 ILCS 5 OF THE COUNTIES CODE.

SECTION 5, PROVIDES THAT AFTER A COUNTY ADOPTS A COUNTY WIDE HOTEL MOTEL TAX, THEN A TOURISM BOARD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED. AND IS TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE EFFECTED COUNTY WHERE THE BOARD VOTE IS WEIGHTED BY THE POPULATION OF EACH CITY / MUNICIPALITY.