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**THE  
RAMEY RECORD**

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State Representative Randy Ramey • 55th District

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## **JANUARY E-NEWSLETTER**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Hello Friends,

I hope you all had a safe and happy New Years celebration. With all of the bad news during last year, 2012 can only get better.

We begin our spring session on January 31st and will continue on through the end of May. If you have any thoughts on the legislation being introduced please feel free to send me a note or call my office. I had many e-mails on various issues last year and will continue to inform you all on what is happening in Springfield. If you have ideas on legislation now is the time to get it to me.

#### Veto Session and Special Session:

##### **Funding for Regional Offices of Education**

Recently, Governor Quinn line item vetoed, among other things, \$11 million in funding for Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) and their staff in addition to \$89 million for school transportation services.

By doing so, these same superintendents that help support our school districts have not received paychecks since June, and some have chosen to resign their posts due to personal financial concerns.

An alternative proposal surfaced which would fund the ROEs through the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax. Through Senate Bill 2147, the funds would be temporarily shifted from the Corporate Personal Property Tax Replacement Fund with a one-year sunset provision, while creating a commission aimed at streamlining the Illinois' Regional Offices of Education.

While this is only a temporary solution, it will give time for to study a more appropriate funding solution and address any potential concerns regarding the functions and responsibilities of our regional superintendents.

### **Com Ed Smart Grid**

Smart grid technology will help to increase three main components of ComEd and Ameren service: reliability, communication and coordination during responses to storms. Given the violent weather that has ripped through our communities the last year and caused major damage, I was fully supportive of this measure to enhance this service.

The current utility grid used in Illinois relies on technology from the early 1920s. The energy demands and delivery technology have drastically changed and this new grid will meet the new demands.

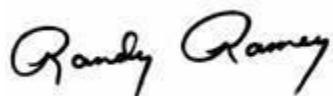
Not only will ComEd customers possibly be saving \$2.8 billion on their electric bills over the 20-year life of the smart meter use, but this new bill will also help create jobs and investment in construction, manufacturing and high-tech sectors of Illinois' economy.

### **Sears/CME Bailout Package**

This package passed but I joined with many of my colleagues in voting against Senate Bill 397, Committee Amendment #3. This measure granted an extension on tax breaks to Sears and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). Other community entities, such as school districts where these companies are located, have been anxiously waiting for this extension to rightfully collect property tax revenue which belongs to them. Schools and other important government or public bodies are in need of this funding in order to maintain full operations. What's necessary in Illinois is a comprehensive overhaul of our system which would make Illinois friendlier to all employers, not just a select few.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the USO drive at the end of November and the coat drive that ran through December. Once again the generosity of the people in the 55th District poured out and we were able to gather many items!

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



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