

HARRY REID
NEVADA



MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON D.C. 20510

December 10, 2008

Governor Rod Blagojevich
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

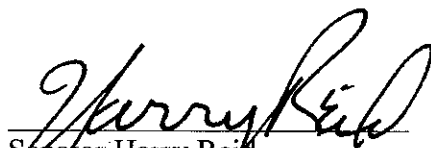
We write to insist that you step down as Governor of Illinois and under no circumstance make an appointment to fill the vacant Illinois Senate seat. In light of your arrest yesterday on alleged federal corruption charges related to that Senate seat, any appointment by you would raise serious questions.

It is within the authority of the Illinois legislature to remove your power to make this appointment by providing for a special election. But a decision by you to resign or to step aside under Article V of the Illinois Constitution would be the most expeditious way for a new Senator to be chosen and seated in a manner that would earn the confidence of the people of Illinois and all Americans. We consider it imperative that a new senator be seated as soon as possible so that Illinois is fully represented in the Senate as the important work of the 111th Congress moves forward.

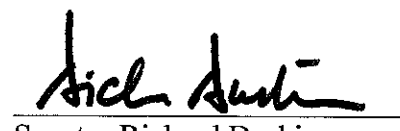
Please understand that should you decide to ignore the request of the Senate Democratic Caucus and make an appointment we would be forced to exercise our Constitutional authority under Article I, Section 5, to determine whether such a person should be seated.

We do not prejudge the outcome of the criminal charges against you or question your constitutional right to contest those charges. But for the good of the Senate and our nation, we implore you to refrain from making an appointment to the Senate.

Sincerely,



Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader



Senator Richard Durbin
Assistant Majority Leader

Chuck Schumer

Senator Charles Schumer
Vice Chairman
Democratic Conference

Patty Murray

Senator Patty Murray
Secretary
Democratic Conference

Frank R. Lautenberg

Herb Kohl

Dianne Feinstein

Amy Klobuchar

Byron D. Dorgan

Caine McCoskill

Wally

Mary Landriss

Tom Harkin

to Benjamin Nelson

Ken Salazar

Jim Z

Jon Kyl

Kent Conrad

Ron Wyden

Mark Pryor

Ernie Borel

Joe Biden

Jon Tester

John F. Kerry

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Bob Casey, Jr.

Sheldon Whitehouse

Chris Dodd

Patrick Leahy

Ed Kennedy

Jim Webb

Carl Levin

Maria Cantwell

Ben Sanders

Blanche L. Lincoln

Robert Byrd

Jay Byrnes

John Wayne

Robert U. McLaughlin

Ann Feght

Thomas R. Borge

Ben Card

Bill Nelson

Jack Reed

My Bances

Rebbie Stenow

Berban Boyer

Samuel K. Paka

Jim Johnson
