

IFA Legislative Report  
January 12, 2009

If anyone has watched any news coverage since our last report, you know that much has been happening in the government in the state of Illinois. In December, the feds arrested Governor Blagojevich on a multitude of charges, but they have not yet indicted the Governor. They have an extension in place, so they can indict at any time until March. Also, just last week the Illinois House of Representatives voted to impeach the Governor. The impeachment trial is slated to start the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Illinois Senate. Some are saying that the trial will last 3 weeks, some say that it will be months, other think it will be much shorter. Either way, if the Governor is convicted by the Senate or decides to step down, then current Lt. Governor Pat Quinn will become the Governor of Illinois. If the Senate does not convict the Governor, and he does not step down, Governor Blagojevich will stay in office. We will have to wait and see what happens.

The 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly starts on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and we will have a lot of work ahead of us. HB 4549 did not pass in the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so we will introduce legislation to reinstate the Illinois Forestry Development Council. We are in the process of speaking with the previous sponsors to make sure they will run the bill this time. We have had some preliminary conversations, and many people think that the rulemaking issue that we ran into last year will be resolved this year (since we have a new Senate President, and potentially a new Governor as well). Also, we are starting to get into the bill reading process, so soon we will be sending out bills to the legislative committee to review.