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BRADLEY STEPHENS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 20TH DISTRICT

May 20, 2020

President Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board
118 N. Clark St., Room 537
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle:

The economic realities of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it impossible for many homeowners to afford their daily expenses – let alone their property tax bills. Residents who are struggling financially are in desperate need of some financial relief during this pandemic. I am writing you in support of the plan to extend property tax payments until October 1. Many counties across Illinois have already taken similar steps, including the five surrounding suburban collar counties.

Last week, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presented a plan to give property owners more time to pay their tax bills extending the property tax payments from the original due date of August 1 until October 1, for both residential homeowners and businesses. There are approximately 1.7 million property owners in Cook County who would benefit from the payment flexibility proposed in this plan.

Many residents are now unemployed, underemployed, or they are business owners who are closed or partially closed. They are dreading the date their second half tax property tax bills arrive in the mail this summer. It is expected that the majority of the payments will be made on time, because homeowners pay monthly into escrow accounts held by their mortgage company. This means their banks will be depositing their payments on the original due date alleviating some financial concerns relating to local governments and their operations.

This action, however, will provide necessary temporary relief for some property owners who do not have mortgages who are financially struggling amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Stephens".

Brad Stephens

State Representative 20th District