



State of Illinois  
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, March 28, 2005

**Letter-to-the-Editor**  
**( 242 words)**

Dear Editor,

When you need to run an errand across town, chances are you jump in your car and go. If you aren't feeling well, you drive yourself to the doctor or pick up medicine at the pharmacy. But for some Illinoisans, access to healthcare, work and shopping just isn't that easy.

Right now, 30 Illinois counties don't have public transportation and 12 counties only offer it in urban areas. That's 1.5 million residents of our state who don't have a vital link to public transportation.

Just before he passed away, former U.S. Senator Paul Simon asked my office to address the lack of public transportation in large parts of rural Illinois. That's why we drafted the "Paul Simon Rural Transportation Initiative" (Senate Bill 1971) sponsored by Sen. John Sullivan (D-Rushville).

This initiative, which recently passed unanimously out of the Illinois Senate Revenue Committee, will provide a solution to the access and transportation barriers in rural Illinois.

Under the "Paul Simon Rural Transportation Initiative," state funding would be provided to rural counties which do not have public transportation systems. This important initiative will provide a public transportation opportunity for workers who need to commute to their job, students who are going to school, and seniors who must visit their doctor.

If you agree with the need for public transportation in rural Illinois, log onto [www.RuralAffairsCouncil.il.gov](http://www.RuralAffairsCouncil.il.gov) and contact your state legislator to urge a "yes" vote on SB 1971, the "Paul Simon Rural Transportation Initiative."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Illinois Lieutenant Governor

