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Dawn DeSart

Council Member, DuPage County
DuPage County Board Office
421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Member DeSart,

Thank you very much for the opportunities to discuss the Lincoln Park Group's past federal lobbying work on behalf of DuPage County as well as providing some background on our team.

For the past two years, we have worked on the county's behalf in Washington as a subcontractor of the McGuireWoods team. We were part of the original team Greg Bales put into place to provide lobbying services in Washington. Greg and I worked the Illinois delegation offices together: he took the lead with the Senators and we divided up the House Members.

We participated in all federal lobbying meetings, providing updates and insight into various federal funding priorities for the County. Additionally we staffed county officials in Washington during the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference.

Two of the House offices on which the Lincoln Park Group took the lobbying lead for FY 2026 were selected for earmark funding. Both projects were included in the Interior Appropriations bill that passed at Committee on July 22, 2025 and are currently awaiting resolution as Congress struggles to wrap up the FY 2026 Appropriations bills. These projects include:

- \$1.09 million for stormwater management (Rep. Delia Ramirez)
- \$240,000 for flood reduction (Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi)

The [Lincoln Park Group](#) is a boutique government relations firm that helps clients navigate legislative developments, craft solutions and proactively engage with elected officials. Please see below for biographical information.

Reilly

Since founding the Lincoln Park Group in 2017, Reilly has represented a wide range of organizations - from Fortune 500 companies and national trade associations to local government and nonprofits. He is well-versed in tax, trade and the appropriations process.

Previously, Reilly served as Vice President and Head of Federal Affairs & Policy at the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, where he was the association's top strategist and voice before Congress and federal agencies. He spent a decade leading bipartisan lobbying efforts earning a reputation for persistence, pragmatism and policy acumen. He began his lobbying career as Director of Government Affairs at the Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

Reilly worked on numerous campaigns and in the offices of U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Tom Harkin prior to settling in Washington. He is a co-founder and board member of the U.S. Ireland Partnership for Growth. The North Aurora-native earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Lake Forest College.

Sincerely,

Reilly O'Connor