



VILLAGE OF CHANNAHON

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September 19, 2017

Mayor Olson and Members of the City Council
City of Rochelle
420 N. 6th Street
Rochelle, IL 61068

Re: Letter of Support for IPBC (Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative)

In 2010, as Village Administrator with the Village of Crete, IL and a member of the Eastern Will County Council of Mayors (EWCCM), our group was faced with substantial volatile changes from year to year with regard to health insurance premiums. The EWCCM consisted of 6 local communities that was formed approximately eight years prior to establish economies of scale in relation to expenses for common services provided in our respective communities. We were able to pool together our employee health insurance needs and minimize the impact of yearly changes to our premiums.

As the health insurance industry evolved, our local pool was becoming less effective in protecting the communities from wide swings in premium costs. We searched for alternate solutions that would reduce or eliminate volatile swings in our premium costs from year-to-year while allowing us to continue to provide quality health plans for our employees. The IPBC fit the bill. Since 2010, now known as the Eastern Will Benefit Council (EWBC) and comprised of 11 member communities, our group has been able to better stabilize our yearly premium costs and continue to provide generous benefit plans for our employees. While some plan years have been better than others in terms of costs, what is most important is these premium swings have been much more stable and predictable year over year.

Each member of the IPBC, whether an individual large or small member or as a member of a subpool of communities, has the ability to participate in the governance and decision making of the organization. In fact, participation of each member is key to the success of the group. As chair of the EWBC, I attend board of directors meetings and committee meetings on a regular basis and make sure the concerns of my subpool are represented. Our subpool meets quarterly at a minimum to discuss any programs or policies of the IPBC to ensure any concerns or questions we have are adequately presented to and addressed by the full board.

This organization is effective in controlling health care costs because of the participation and collective decision making of the members and staff. I trust the City of Rochelle, should you become a member, will realize the similar positive benefits membership has enjoyed.

If I can be of further assistance or if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Durkin, AICP
Village Administrator
Chair, Eastern Will Benefit Council (EWBC)