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May 20, 2009

Ms. Tracie Drew, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Administrative Rules and Procedures
Department of Human Services
100 South Grand Avenue East
Harris Building, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62762

**Re: Proposed Amendments to Food Stamps (89 Ill. Adm. Code 121), Illinois
Register 4/17/09**

Dear Ms. Drew:

I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to the Food Stamp program. The proposed changes simplify and align asset rules across programs and reduce administrative burdens on staff.

By adopting the categorical eligibility rule, which eliminates the asset test, more Illinois individuals and families will qualify for federally-funded Food Stamp benefits. In addition, Illinois residents will be encouraged to build savings and assets that will assist them in maintaining self-sufficiency, especially when they experience an employment setback.

Woodstock Institute advances economic security and community prosperity on behalf of lower-wealth households and communities of color through research and policy work to support fair lending, wealth creation, and financial system regulatory reform.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely yours,

Dory Rand
President
312.368.0310
drand@woodstockinst.org

DR/bab