



ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

JB Pritzker
Governor

Alicia Tate-Nadeau
Acting Director

August 28, 2019

Dear Russ,

Please accept this letter as sincere appreciation for assisting the State of Illinois during the 2019 Spring Flood incident. We deployed over \$1M worth of state deployable communications equipment and leveraged the coordinated assistance of 12 Communications Unit leaders (COMLs) including you over a period of 62 consecutive days and encompassing over 30 counties. As you know communications is always at the top of the list of items to improve after an incident. But having trained communications experts such as yourself we were able to facilitate a smooth communications operation. Again thank you for assisting us in our mission, and I hope you will continue to assist with future events and incidents.

Achieving communications excellence requires more than just technology, it requires a complete shift from traditional thinking to a more comprehensive, coordinated strategy. Communications excellence is about change - including technological, strategic, tactical, and cultural. There is no "finish line" as communications continue to evolve we must continue to improve our ability to effectively communicate with each other. From daily operability to local Interoperability to statewide Interoperability, the key is to have a plan, to participate with your neighbors and to practice. But most importantly, we need your continued leadership when it comes time to drive home the importance of communications excellence.

Thank you for being one of those champions in supporting communications excellence for the State. I respect your professionalism and appreciate your friendship. Keep up the great work.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Galvin".

Joe Galvin
Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)