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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CBAI SUPPORTS FINANCIAL RESCUE MEASURE
Reiterates that Illinois Community Banks Are Safe and Sound

SPRINGFIELD, IL (September 29, 2008) – The Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) announced its support today for the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 which is pending final action in Congress. “Although community banks did not create the problems that have led to the current economic crisis, we are determined to do everything we can to help get our nation’s economy back on track,” stated Dennis Hesker, CBAI chairman-elect. “This measure is necessary to prevent further worldwide financial instability and economic chaos, and we are urging Congress to enact HR3997.”

CBAI President Bob Wingert emphasized that, while all lending institutions have been impacted by this crisis, the vast majority of Illinois community banks are safe and sound with adequate capital and money to lend. “The giant institutions have liquidity problems today because they had to write off bad loans and securities backed by subprime mortgages. Community banks, on the other hand, continue to lend money in their local markets where they know their customers and have a stake in their local communities.”

Hesker, who is also CEO of the First National Bank in Okawville in downstate Illinois, emphasized that customer deposits are insured by the FDIC up to \$100,000 per account, and banks can help customers identify ways to make sure that any funds above the limit are also

insured. “Community banks provide stability and safety for depositors, and our funds are put to work for the benefit of the local economy.”

CBAI is a statewide bank trade association with 475 community bank and thrift members that represent nearly 75% of all banks and thrifts in Illinois. CBAI, headquartered in Springfield, was founded in 1974.