



## CBAI Attends Durbin Press Conference on Small Business Lending Fund

*CBAI leadership bankers joined Illinois Senator Richard J. Durbin to introduce the Administration's new small business lending program at a news conference in Chicago.*

"Small business desperately needs access to credit in order to grow and hire more aggressively," said Senator Durbin. "They are the key to a true (economic) recovery. Job creation is the highest priority of the people in this country and it is my highest priority in the Senate. This program would be a much needed lifeline for Illinois small businesses."



Tony Sisto Senator Durbin Todd Grayson David Schroeder



Todd Grayson expressed support for the Administration's proposal on behalf of Illinois community banks and urged the prompt passage of this legislation. "Community banks are the financial engines of their communities," said Grayson. "Despite the Great Recession, community banks' small business lending has remained strong."

properly, the \$30 billion Fund will encourage additional small business lending, fuel job creation, and help create economic stability."

Grayson added, "For this program to be successful, it must be designed so as to ensure maximum participation by community banks. A well-designed program must be separate and apart from the TARP, have reasonable eligibility requirements, and be free of any other unacceptable restrictions. If the program is designed

CBAI is working with the Administration, Senator Durbin, and the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) to pass this important legislation and make the program available to as many community banks as possible. CBAI believes that the program should help banks strengthen their capital so they can increase lending. CBAI and ICBA will urge Congress to ensure that Camel 3-rated and strong Camel 4-rated banks be eligible to participate to help bolster their capital positions and enable them to increase lending to small businesses for years to come.

