



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**BRUCE RAUNER**  
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2015

To all the citizens of the great State of Illinois:

The USS ILLINOIS (SSN-786) is the 13th Virginia-Class submarine, and the first naval ship since 1897, to carry our great state's name. It is scheduled to launch on June 27, 2015 and be commissioned on December 20, 2015. The USS Illinois Commissioning Committee was formed by volunteers across the state and is led by the Navy League of the United States, Aurora Council, to help honor Illinois' newest namesake ship.

The Committee's purpose is to promote awareness of the construction of the USS ILLINOIS (SSN-786), to provide support for the crew during construction, to help organize and raise money for the events surrounding its launch and commissioning, and to provide ongoing support for the ship and its crew after it is commissioned.

As Governor, I am pleased to partner with the USS ILLINOIS Commissioning Committee in its mission, particularly to bring about a feeling of pride in all Illinois citizens, and to increase awareness and support for the ship and its crew. The state is committed to partnering with the Committee and ship throughout its 35-year life so all crewmembers will continue to know the citizens of Illinois appreciate, recognize, and applaud the selfless sacrifices they make to keep all of us safe and out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rauner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being particularly prominent.

Bruce Rauner  
Governor, State of Illinois