

**DOCUMENT 9 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR JOSEPH DUNCAN ACCOMPANYING A
MEMORIAL FROM CITIZENS OF COOK COUNTY**

November 29, 1834

TRANSCRIPTION

His Excellency Joseph Duncan
Governor Elect of the State of Illinois

Chicago Nov. 29. 1834

Sir– I take the liberty of transmitting to you a printed copy of the memorial of the citizens of Cook County, asking for the construction of a canal to unite the Illinois river with Lake Michigan by the State. — The memorial was adopted with great unanimity and speaks the sentiments of the people in this quarter of the State upon this important Subject, except, that all would prefer a Steam – boat Canal to one of ordinary dimension – We should have petitioned for one had we supposed it possible to induce the Legislature to go for it: But believing it impossible to obtain an act to construct a St. Boat Communication, the citizens deemed it policy to ask for a Common Canal, well knowing, that when its usefulness should be tested & the wants of the State should require it, an act could be obtained to enlarge it to the requisite size for Steam Boats — Our citizens are for a canal of some kind & they believe that it should be undertaken by the State – Rail Roads are out of the question with us, except, in those places where canals cannot be obtained for want of water to feed them or some other insurmountable obstacle — I doubt whether we have Twenty rail road men among us & some of these are influenced by interest — They hope to get stock & then canal lands as a bonus — I trust they will be disappointed: For one I should regret to see the commercial prosperity and agricultural
of the people of this State
& manufacturing interests ^ subjected to the Control of a rail road monopoly I hope I shall not be deemed guilty of impertinence when I say that, the people rely with great confidence upon your wisdom & firmness in recommending and enforcing upon the general Assembly the necessity of immediately adopting efficient measures for the opening of a canal between the Illinois & the Lake — no improvement, of the same extent & cost, can be undertaken by the state which will confer such substantial advantages or secure

solarge commercial facilities as this canal — The state will incur no responsibility by the undertaking for I have not the least doubt but that the canal lands will provide abundantly for the whole cost.

This may seem singular to your excellency — It is nevertheless my firm conviction, and the opinion is entertained by gentlemen of acknowledged competency & judgment — Let these lands be withheld until the canal is completed and they will bring \$2.500.000 — &this is half a million more than the canal will actually cost, Mr. Bucklin's report to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Upon you sir, will devolve the arduous but noble duty of carrying
effect
into [^] a System of internal improvement which will produce results,
beneficial and grand, almost beyond conception — virtuous ambition could
exercise
not desire a more ample theatre for its ~~exercise~~ than the one which is
presented to the chief magistrate elect of this State — a liberal canal
System will meet with the support of the people in this section of the State

I am with great respect Your obt.servt.

James H. Collins