



Moscow Covered Bridge Reconstruction Committee

October 2008

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Robert Carter
Director
Indiana Department of Natural
Resources

Dear Fellow Hoosier, Friend and Colleague:

On behalf of the residents of Moscow, Indiana, the residents of Rush County and all Hoosiers, it is our honor to be asked to assist in the fundraising efforts for the reconstruction of the Moscow Covered Bridge. We are calling upon all Indiana families, businesses, organizations and groups of all kinds to come to the aid of a Hoosier community in need.

As you may have heard, on June 3, 2008, a tornado tore the bridge from its abutments and sent it crashing into the Flatrock River below. Prior to that devastating night, the bridge had stood for over 122 years, spanning 345 feet across the river and was still in use as a vital link for daily community life.

After touring the site where the bridge so majestically once stood as a local landmark and historical treasure; and visiting with several of the residents of Moscow and Rush County, we all were deeply touched by the sense of loss that was felt by the community. Following several visits, and realizing that any reconstruction efforts would need to be funded by non-tax dollars, the Office of the Governor pledged to assemble and lead a coalition of state and local officials, craftsmen, historical experts, non-profit organizations, associations and businesses in an effort to replace the bridge. We believe that the Governor's coalition, under the leadership of CSO Architects, can muster Hoosier goodwill and the spirit of cooperation to develop a plan to rebuild the bridge.

On August 8, 2008, the formation of the coalition and the plan to proceed immediately with fundraising efforts was announced. Partnering with local citizens, the Governor's coalition has committed to raising two-thirds of the total fundraising goal of \$450,000. Local citizens will then raise one-third of the remaining total goal.

To meet that goal, we need your help. Please take a few moments to review the enclosed materials introducing and detailing The Bridge, The Builder, The Governor's Plan, and The Timeline. Please consider helping us reconstruct this state and national historic landmark. Together, we can rebuild a bridge that will stand for an additional 122 years while serving as a reminder to present and future generations of Hoosier ingenuity, skill, generosity, and industriousness.

Sincerely,

Governor Mitch Daniels
Honorary Co-Chair

James A. Schellinger
Honorary Co-Chair