



Illinois State Senator Barack Obama

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Chicago, Illinois 60615
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June 30, 2004

Dear Table Tennis Friends:

This letter is to express my enthusiasm for the SPINvitational and the Killerspin U.S. Open in Chicago during the week of June 30 through July 3. The City of Chicago plans to partner with the State of Illinois to make this an extremely successful international event that will help promote business and tourism in Chicago.

The SPINvitational will be broadcast on ESPN television in 156 countries and viewed by tens of millions of people and it continues your efforts to make Chicago the table tennis capital of this nation. The State of Illinois and the City of Chicago will be supporting the SPINvitational with several major promotional efforts.

Table tennis remains one of the top sports in the world and the activity continues to pick up steam. Table tennis is a major U.S. sport with 2.2 million frequent participants and 20 million total participants. Worldwide, more than 300 million people play table tennis. Table tennis is the top rated sport for TV viewership in China and China is one of the world's only growing financial and economic markets.

Good luck to all the participants and I want to thank Governor Blagojevich, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Jack Lavin, Mayor Daley and everyone else who organized this fine event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama".

Barack Obama
State Senator, 13th District