



BARACK OBAMA

June 5, 2008

Dear Living Blues:

Thank you for putting together this beautiful special edition of *Living Blues* magazine honoring the Chicago Blues tradition. The history of the Blues and the history of Chicago are inseparable, and that rich tradition continues today in Blues bars and clubs around the City.

The history of Chicago Blues is especially tangible this year as we celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Chicago Blues Festival, June 5th through the 8th. This wonderful event kicks off summer in Chicago - a season filled with outdoor gatherings, food festivals, neighborhood parades and carnivals, and many more activities throughout the city. I invite you to experience the Blues in Chicago, during the Festival, or at any time. At sites throughout the city, you'll find that the music, the musicians, and the City are linked and evolve together in a way that can only be appreciated firsthand.

Thank you for continuing to tell the story of the Blues and the story of my hometown. I know the passion of Blues fans and artists will continue to fuel this uniquely American music. Like the city of Chicago, the music is alive and even though it is constantly adapting and incorporates new influences, its soul remains unchanged.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator

