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**THOUSANDS OF TAXPAYERS IN CHICAGO FOR DAY 1 OF 3
FOR A SHOWDOWN AGAINST BIG BANKS****Hundreds Gather Outside the Opening Ball of the
American Bankers Association Conference to Demand Accountability**

Chicago – Thousands of taxpayers are in Chicago for a three day “Showdown” against the American Bankers Association (ABA) at their annual conference.

Events kicked off with a gathering of hundreds of everyday Americans, including U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), for the People's Commission to hear testimony and evidence of loss of homes, jobs and pensions, which the Commission plans to share with the Obama Administration, Members of Congress and the Angelides Commission.

“The big banks and their lobbyists have had their way in Washington for decades,” said George Goehl, Executive Director, National People's Action. “Their drive to deregulate the financial markets has failed miserably. It is time for new ideas – and the incredibly diverse crowd of everyday Americans gather in Chicago to put forth a set of clear proposals.” Details of proposals is available at: <http://www.showdowninchicago.org/oursolution.html>

Immediately after the People's Commission a group of more than 900 people were organized to take their message directly to the ABA at a social being held at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, also the conference location.

About 60 people penetrated the hotel lobby, requesting a demand letter be delivered to members of ABA and was read out loud for members to hear. No comments were made by ABA representatives.

“I know they heard us, whether they wanted to or not,” said Reverend Robert Bushey, member of Central Illinois Organizing Project. “We're tired of what they have done. We want to hold them accountable for the current economic crisis. We want to find out if the lawmakers are on our side or on the side of profit.”

Today, organizers plan for even more protests outside the ABA conference, as well as a protest outside Goldman Sachs Chicago Headquarters, which will take place around 10:30am CT.

Photos and videos of all “Showdown” events and activities are being captured and provided to the media thru the following websites:

- YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/ABAShowdown>
- Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=all&q=ABAShowdown&m=text>

Also visit: www.SEIU.org, www.StopBankGreed.org, or www.ShowdownInChicago.org for more details.

Groups participating in the three days of mobilizations include: A New Way Forward, AFL-CIO, Action Now, Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Alliance to Develop Power (ADP), Americans for Fairness in Lending, Americans for Financial Reform, ARISE Chicago, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP), Center for Community Change (CCC), Change in Terms, Change to Win, Citizen Action, Chicago Coalition of the Homeless, Communities United for Action (CUFA), Community Voices Heard (CVH), Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO), Grassroots Collaborative, Green Party of Nevada, Fuerza Laboral/Power of Workers, Illinois Hunger Coalition, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Jobs with Justice, Gender Just Metanoia Centers, Inc., Michigan People's Action (MPA), MoveOn, National People's Action, Northside Action for Justice, Northside POWER, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, People Organized for West Side Renewal (POWER), PUSH Buffalo, Right to the City Alliance, Rights for All People (RAP), Roomdad Productions, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), SEIU Illinois State Council, SOUL, South Austin Coalition Community Council (SACCC), Sunflower Community Action, Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN), Teach Our Children (TOC), The Grassroots Collaborate, UE, UCLA Undergraduate Students Association, Workers United, and Working In Neighborhoods (WIN)