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From: Illinois Department of Commerce [ilcommercenews@illinois.gov]
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To: char@montgomery-illinois.org
Subject: Illinois State of Change Newsletter



Stakeholder Update February 2016

2016 is off to an exciting start at the Illinois Department of Commerce. Last week, Governor Rauner presented his FY2017 Budget Address to the General Assembly, reemphasizing his commitment to enacting structural reforms to lower the cost of doing business in Illinois and to make our state more competitive by addressing cost drivers such as workers compensation, property taxes, and lawsuit costs. "We have to break out of this downward cycle - and build a positive cycle of cost savings and job growth," Governor Rauner said.

Governor Rauner also strengthened his commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for every child in Illinois, proposing increased funding for K-12 education in Illinois. Increased funding will ensure that Illinois is properly investing in our children and building a competitive, attractive workforce for decades to come.

While we continue to pursue structural change through legislation, we are also taking concrete, immediate action to promote job growth in Illinois. As many of you know, last month in his State of the State address, Governor Rauner **announced the creation** of the **Illinois Business & Economic Development Corporation (ILBEDC)**, a private, non-profit economic development corporation, to jump-start growth and job creation in our state. I had the pleasure of joining Governor Rauner and leaders from our state's business community to announce the signing of an executive order **directing the Department of Commerce** to work collaboratively with the ILBEDC to attract businesses and

In the News

Local leaders support
Rauner's proposal for
public-private economic
development partnership

Director outlines new
economic development
organization

Illinois Department of
Commerce receives 18
applications for 12
enterprise zones

DRA Investments to help
economic development in
Southern Illinois

Rauner unveils program
aimed at helping minority,
female entrepreneurs

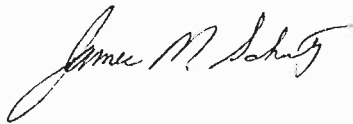
GE Healthcare moving
headquarters to Chicago
from U.K.

investment and to encourage job growth throughout Illinois. You can learn more about the ILBEDC at www.ilbedc.org.

While the ILBEDC gets up and running, the Department of Commerce's Office of Business Development is still your one-stop-shop for information and resources to help you open or expand a business in Illinois. You can learn more about the Office of Business Development, its services, and how it works with businesses in Illinois below.

We are at the beginning of a new path forward for economic development in Illinois and I look forward to sharing this journey with you through additional updates on our progress.

Best regards,



James M. Schultz

Horizon Pharma moves into expanded U.S. headquarters in Lake Forest

Illinois tourism director visits Macomb

CDFA releases Rural Financing Best Practices

Regional Spotlight: Southern Illinois

At the foothills of the Ozark Mountains and nestled between the country's two largest rivers - the Ohio and the Mississippi - the Southern Illinois Region is the home to numerous sites of growing tourist interest including the Shawnee National Forest, wineries, beautiful lakes, and historic communities. In addition to an extraordinary quality of life, the Southern Region of Illinois has much to offer a new or expanding business, including a central U.S. location, skilled workforce, and highly developed transportation infrastructure network with multiple modes of access to the entire country.



The region's well-educated and highly-trained workforce benefit from proximity to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, John A. Logan College, Rend Lake College, Illinois Eastern College, Southern Illinois College, and Shawnee Community College.

An expansive transportation corridor makes the region highly accessible through Interstates I-24, I-57, and I-65, in addition to expanded highways like Illinois Route 13. The region is home to multiple Class I railroads (CN, UP, BNSF, and NS) and Class II carriers (Progressive Rail and Evansville Western Railway). Passenger rail is available via Amtrak at Carbondale, and commercial air service is available at the Williamson County Airport in Marion. Waterway ports are located at Union-Jackson Counties, Cairo-Alexander County, Metropolis-Massac County, and Shawneetown.

Major employers like Aisin, Continental Tire, Walgreen's Distribution Center, and Champion Laboratories thrive in Southern Illinois. [Click Here](#) to read more.

Office of Business Development is Your One-Stop Resource

If you're looking to launch, grow, or relocate your business in Illinois, knowing where to start can be the hardest part. The state's Office of Business Development offers resources for businesses of all sizes, serving as a one stop shop for anyone looking to own a business in Illinois.



The Office of Business Development is here to guide prospective business owners through everything from site selection to working with local and state government, navigating red tape, and providing guidance to permits and licenses to operate in Illinois. Our team connects clients with local, state, and federal resources - including possible incentives and grants for economic development projects - and works with a variety of government agencies such as the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois EPA to meet businesses' needs.

Close coordination with local economic development organizations is a top priority for the Office of Business Development. Our field staff provides support to encourage regional collaboration on long term economic development strategic planning and the promotion of local high-growth industry clusters. [Click Here](#) to read more.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

The Illinois Department of Commerce is your one-stop resource for intergovernmental coordination; technical assistance with site selection; regional collaboration with key stakeholders; custom workforce training; expedited permitting, licensing, and other approval; connection to civic and business partners; potential incentives; and more!



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