

News...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. La Shawn K. Ford Selected as One of Six House Members for a Mission to Cuba

CHICAGO – After Labor Day 2011 and in the week President Obama is set to deliver a major speech to Congress and the American people focusing on job creation and economic growth, state Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is leaving for Cuba today in an effort to boost exports from Illinois to Cuba, creating much needed jobs for Illinoisans. Led by state Reps. Dan Burke (D-Chicago) and Jack Franks (D-Marengo), the delegation of legislators will meet with Cuban leaders to establish connections to expand and increase the sale to Cuba of products such as agricultural, food, medical and pharmaceuticals which are manufactured in the state of Illinois.

From 2001 to 2004, the state of Illinois exported an estimated \$500 million of agricultural and medical supplies to Cuba. In 2005, this dropped to under \$150 million, and by 2006 the total sales of Illinois agricultural and medical supplies was less than \$70 million. Ford joins the delegation from Illinois to seek to increase these sales and develop relationships with Cuban agencies and institutions that are researching the trade potential for Illinois-based firms.

"It is our hope that we will find ways to boost future exports and ways to create jobs in Illinois," said Ford, Chairman of the House Small Business Empowerment and Workforce Development Committee.

No taxpayer dollars will be spent on the trip, and Ford is paying for the trip himself.

For additional information, contact Rep. Ford's constituent service office at 773-378-5902, or visit www.lashawnford.com

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