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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford Attends Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security in Washington, D.C.

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) on Friday joined the Chicago Council on Global Affairs as a guest at the Symposium on Global Agricultural and Food Security, an event held in Washington, D.C. to prepare world leaders to make the case for advancing food security issues at the 2012 G8 Summit.

“Food security, or the availability of healthy food and one’s access to it, is important for everyone world-wide,” Ford said. “Although food production has increased in the world, there are still areas even in our own neighborhoods where people do not have physical or economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”

The symposium, which was co-chaired by Catherine Bertini (Executive Director, UN World Food Program from 1992-2002), and Dan Glickman (Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, 1995-2001), welcomed world leaders from agriculture and business, and featured discussions on topics such as African food security, nutritional security, agriculture and food innovation, and improving markets and increasing trade. The symposium also featured a keynote address from President Barack Obama.

“The meeting emphasized the ideas that the economics of increasing food security is good for everyone in our society, and that public and private sectors can together create an attractive business climate that promotes food security,” Ford said. “Access to fresh, healthy foods can improve the health of the community, potentially reducing healthcare costs, and can create jobs in the community when healthy foods are produced and marketed locally.”

Rep. Ford plans to build on the success of legislation he passed in 2010 to allow farmers’ markets to accept LINK (food stamp) cards. He recently reported that almost double the amount of farmers’ markets now accept LINK cards, resulting in a fourfold increase in LINK sales at these markets. A list of these markets can be found at LaShawnFord.com.

For more information, please call one of Ford's constituent service offices; call the Oak Park office at (708) 445-3673 or the Chicago office at (773) 378-5902.

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