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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Calls for Small Business Rescue Package with Sales Tax Rollback

CHICAGO – At a time when many are focused on how to keep large corporations from leaving the state of Illinois, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is urging elected leaders to place more emphasis on policies that promote and strengthen small businesses, the economic engines of job creation.

“While it’s certainly important to have discussions on what we can do to make Illinois a friendlier place for large corporations, we in government must work just as hard as the many struggling entrepreneurs to help small businesses succeed,” Ford said. “Every day that goes by without a comprehensive small business plan is another day of struggle for existing businesses, and an untold lost opportunity for new job creation.”

Ford, who initiated the creation of the House Small Business Empowerment and Workforce Development Committee, which he now chairs, introduced legislation that became law in August this year as Public Act 97-307. This law sets an annual goal that at least 10% of the state’s contracts are awarded to small business. Ford is now introducing a package of legislation aimed at helping small businesses succeed. The legislation includes:

- **House Bill 3886 – Small Business Sales Tax Rollback**, Reduces the amount of sales tax charged on certain goods purchased from small businesses, helping to level the playing field for smaller firms to compete. This legislation also lowers the sales tax charged on certain purchases made by small businesses. Also requires the Department of Revenue to certify eligible businesses that can participate in the incentive program.
- **House Bill 3889 – Creates a five-day small business tax holiday for Christmas 2011.** This tax holiday eliminates the portion of state sales tax to benefit small business owners and struggling consumers.
- **House Bill 3868** – Defines “very small businesses” as those with average gross revenue below \$500,000 for its last three fiscal years, and establishes a goal of awarding at least one percent of state contracts to these firms.
- **House Resolution 655** – Designates January as “Small Business Month,” recognizing the contributions of entrepreneurs and promoting shopping at small businesses.

For more information on these bills, call Ford's constituent service office at (773) 378-5902 or visit www.LaShawnFord.com.