



## Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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### **LTD Commodities Expanding Illinois Operations**

*125 New Jobs To Be Created At Aurora Facility*

CHICAGO - Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that LTD Commodities LLC of Bannockburn, Illinois is opening a new 700,000 square foot distribution center in Aurora to supplement its existing Aurora operations. In addition to retaining nearly 350 current Aurora area employees, LTD will be creating another 125 new positions as a result of its business expansion plans.

"We are pleased to partner with LTD Commodities to bring more jobs to Illinois," said Governor Blagojevich. "The company already employs over 1,500 people in Illinois and this new center will create even more jobs with good wages for the hard working men and women of our state."

LTD Commodities is eligible for tax credits through the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) program and for workforce training grants through the Industrial Training Program (ITP). The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers both programs.

"Despite a sluggish economy, Illinois continues to see tremendous growth opportunities in warehousing and distribution," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "As Governor Blagojevich has said 'job creation is the most important thing we can do to move this state forward,' and we intend on continuing to identify, and work with, businesses looking to expand in Illinois."

LTD Commodities is a leading catalog and internet marketer of housewares, gifts, toys and apparel. "We have already been part of the Aurora community for nearly five years," says Michael Hara, LTD's chief executive officer. "The quality of the Aurora area workforce along with the support of local government and economic development officials were important factors in our decision to open an additional site there."

LTD's new site will initially be used for merchandise storage, and will offer an on-site store for its employees as well as recreational areas for use by the staff, including a soccer field and an outdoor patio dining area.

"This additional investment in Aurora is welcomed," said Aurora Mayor David L. Stover. "We're pleased that the State of Illinois remains proactive in the business retention area."

"LTD Commodities' growth within the Aurora area continues to have a tremendous impact," said Sherman L. Jenkins, executive director of the Aurora Economic Development Commission. "The additional jobs for area residents and more business for Aurora vendors are key to future developments."

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