



opportunityreturns

Creating more jobs for today and tomorrow

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rod R. Blagojevich – Governor

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news

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GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES *OPPORTUNITY RETURNS* GRANT TO HELP STOP SCOTT COUNTY FLOODING WHICH IS HURTING LOCAL BUSINESS

CHICAGO – Governor Rod Blagojevich announced almost **\$10,000** in *Opportunity Returns* funding today that will go towards finding a way to prevent the Wolf Run Creek in the Village of Bluffs from flooding. This has become a major problem for United Contractors Midwest, which has a heavy equipment repair facility located on the banks of Wolf Run Creek. Each time it floods, the facility has been shut down for at least a week. The Bluffs location has flooded four times in the past three years costing the company more than \$232,000.

“The goal of *Opportunity Returns* is to be nimble enough to respond when a business needs our support. We don’t want the flooding of Wolf Run Creek to wash away these good jobs, so this grant will help us find the best solution to the problem. By forging these private-public partnerships, we can continue growing our economy and creating more jobs,” Governor Blagojevich said.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is funding the preliminary engineering report, which should take about two months to complete. This preliminary report will be used by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to assist in developing a flood plan for the area by March 2005.

“Governor Blagojevich and I know that in order for us to create a climate conducive for more economic growth that we must be able to quickly react when a good employer like United Contractors Midwest needs a helping hand. Through *Opportunity Returns*, we are able to provide this important assistance,” State Senator John Sullivan (D-Rushville) said.

“Governor Blagojevich wants to make sure that the state is always looking for opportunities to invest in businesses that invest in Illinois. United Contractors Midwest is committed to growing in our state, so this *Opportunity Returns* funding is going to help us try to illustrate the most logical way to fix this problem and retain these good jobs,” DCEO Director Jack Lavin said.

Governor Blagojevich’s *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development plan is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois’ history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn’t work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions – finding areas with common economic strengths and needs, and developing a plan with specific actions for each region. *Opportunity Returns* contains tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses.

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