



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Dollar Tree Stores To Open Joliet Distribution Facility *Fifty New Jobs To Be Created*

CHICAGO - Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. plans to construct a 1.2 million square foot, fully automated distribution center at Route 53 and Laraway Road in Joliet. Once completed in mid-2004, the Joliet distribution center will replace Dollar Tree's current Chicago-area facility and support store growth in the Midwest region. In addition to retaining 150 current workers, the project will create 50 new jobs.

"I want to thank the people at Dollar Tree Stores for making this major capital investment in Illinois," said Governor Blagojevich. "Creating jobs is a key to how we're going to move Illinois forward, and this project is a perfect example of moving towards that goal."

Dollar Tree Stores 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 state is also providing funds to the City of Joliet for site improvements and infrastructure. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) administers all of the programs. In addition, a five-year, 50 percent property tax abatement for the building has been approved by Will County, the City of Joliet, and local school districts.

"I'd like to thank our local partners in Will County and Joliet for their role in facilitating development of yet another major logistics center that's going to provide great job opportunities for the area's residents," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "Despite a sluggish economy, Illinois' warehousing and logistics sector continues to thrive, especially along the I-55 and I-80 corridors."

Virginia-based Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. is the nation's leading \$1.00 discount variety store chain, offering a vast array of products ranging from housewares to seasonal goods to food and more. The company operates 2,301 stores in 41 states as of March 31, 2003, as well as seven distribution centers.

"The Joliet site is the best fit for our logistics model and offers excellent access to both interstate and rail systems," commented Steve White, Senior Vice President, Logistics. "We are also very impressed with the proactive and collaborative business approach taken at both

the state and local levels. The spirit of partnership shown has made us feel very comfortable with our decision. We look forward to our involvement in the local community."

"Dollar Tree Stores is a welcome addition to Joliet," said Joliet Mayor Art Schultz. "The facility will provide hundreds of thousands of tax dollars to the City of Joliet, local schools and Will County, even with the tax abatements that were granted," he said.

"Dollar Tree is a national brand and its selection of Joliet is an endorsement of Will County's business climate and quality of life," said John Greuling, president and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. "We are indebted to Senator Larry Walsh (D-Elwood) and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for their assistance in this important project," he said.

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