



# 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 LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF CENTRAL REGION LUMBER COMPANY

CHICAGO – Governor Rod Blagojevich announced today that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has provided a **\$500,000** Revolving Line of Credit Program (RLOC) loan to NewLine Hardwoods, Inc. to provide working capital for operating the recently purchased Rich Lumber Company of Beardstown. This loan is crucial because Rich Lumber would have gone out of business if NewLine hadn't purchased it. Providing the RLOC loan to ensure the success of this transaction will retain **10** existing jobs and is expected to create **40** new jobs. This loan is part of the Governor's *Opportunity Returns* initiative, Governor Blagojevich's comprehensive, pro-active plan for restoring economic opportunity to the Central region.

"There comes a point where every company needs to borrow money in order to grow," said Governor Blagojevich. "By providing the opportunity to access a RLOC loan, we're making it easier for NewLine Hardwoods to expand and create new jobs. This is just the kind of forward-thinking vision we need from companies in Illinois. We think NewLine will be a great employer and neighbor in Central Illinois for many years to come."

The Revolving Line of Credit Program allows the state to join with local governments and local banks to provide funds for companies. These funds can be used for facility upgrades, acquisition, expansion, or, in this case, operating capital. DCEO is purchasing a one-third share of this \$1.5 million loan issued by First National Bank of Lacon.

"This is exactly the kind of assistance our region needs, and it shows once again that Governor Blagojevich's local grassroots approach to economic development is working. This outstanding investment will save jobs and create good new ones throughout the next several years. And assisting with this loan helps us build a relationship with NewLine Hardwoods that we hope to foster long into the future," said State Senator John Sullivan (D-Rushville).

"Providing operating capital loans are a great way for the state to use its resources to help local companies grow and add jobs. This loan carries minimal risk to the taxpayers of Illinois, yet has tremendous benefits for the people of the Central region," said Jack Lavin, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

(more)

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. Developed largely from the input of local business, labor and public sector leaders, *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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