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News Release

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Gov. Blunt, Lt. Governor Kinder Announce 350 Jobs Relocating to Sikeston; Quality Jobs Legislation Key to Deal

JEFFERSON CITY – Gov. Matt Blunt and Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, serving as acting governor, today announced that Orgill will invest \$38 million to build an 800,000-square foot distribution facility that will bring 350 jobs to Sikeston, in large part due to the Missouri Quality Jobs Act that offers incentives to companies that maintain or expand competitive operations in our state.

“I am pleased that Orgill has decided to locate this new, state-of-the-art warehouse and distribution center in Sikeston,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “Thanks to Gov. Blunt’s Quality Jobs Act, the opportunities created by this development will benefit the honest, hard-working men and women of Sikeston. As a Southeast Missourian, I look forward to the future growth of Orgill in Sikeston and the success that is sure to follow.”

Under a memorandum of understanding with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Orgill will have access to an estimated \$3,241,956 in economic incentives over a period of nine years based on the new jobs created.

“We continue to see some major successes from my administration’s pro-jobs, pro-growth initiatives that are helping create and retain family-supporting jobs as well as expand investment in Missouri thanks to our Quality Jobs Act,” Gov. Blunt said. “It is clear that Missouri means business when it comes to creating jobs. Orgill’s commitment to the state is just another example of how our pro-jobs, pro-growth policies are having a positive impact on Missouri’s economy.”

The Missouri Quality Jobs Act was passed overwhelmingly by the General Assembly in 2005 and was signed into law by the governor shortly after. The governor initially proposed the measure as a major part of his legislative economic development package.

In June the governor signed legislation which contained several major provisions to build on strong economic growth and development in Missouri. The legislation increases the annual cap on the governor's successful Quality Jobs Tax Credit Program from \$40 million to \$60 million and among other things increases the amount of tax credits the Missouri Department of Economic Development may authorize for the Enhanced Enterprise Zone Program from \$14 million to \$24 million.

Economic development legislation passed this year builds on the unparalleled reforms enacted under Gov. Blunt's leadership. Comprehensive litigation reform enacted under Gov. Blunt's leadership drove the state to a ten spot jump in a leading national watch group's ranking. The state's jump in rank is indicative of the many success stories resulting from Gov. Blunt's pro-family, pro-jobs initiatives.

In addition, Gov. Blunt's workers' compensation reform measures enacted in 2005 are helping to decrease workers' compensation rates in the state. The law restored fairness to Missouri's workers' compensation system by protecting rights of injured workers without threatening Missouri jobs.

Gov. Blunt has successfully restored order to a broken state budget without raising taxes. He inherited a devastated state economy in January 2005 that was \$1.1 billion in the red and had lost 34,000 jobs in the previous four years. Overall, Gov. Blunt's pro-jobs, pro-growth initiatives have helped Missourians create nearly 80,000 new jobs since January 2005.

Orgill, Inc. is the nation's largest independently owned hardlines distributor providing retailers across the United States and in more than 60 countries throughout the world access to more than 60,000 products and industry-leading retail services.

Over the past decade Orgill, a privately held company based in Memphis, Tenn., has emerged as the fastest growing hardlines distributor in the United States

"This is exciting news for Sikeston and the state of Missouri," DED director Greg Steinhoff said. "I am pleased that DED played a role in making this project a reality. Gov. Blunt's focus on helping employers and entrepreneurs create and retain good jobs continues to increase opportunities for working families.

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