STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, small businesses make tremendous contributions to the economic strength of our nation, accounting for 75 percent of all new jobs; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently 28 million small businesses in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently over 1,118,904 small businesses in Illinois and

WHEREAS, small businesses have created 65 percent of net new jobs over the past two decades; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' small businesses help preserve Illinois' communities and are integral to our state's unique economic identity; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois supports local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the health of Illinois' economy depends on our support of businesses owned by our friends and neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois' small business owners and employees enrich our purchasing experiences with their local knowledge and passion; and,

WHEREAS, the weekend after Thanksgiving is a profitable time for retailers, and for every $100 spent at local small businesses, $68 is returned to the community; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 24, 2012 as ***SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY*** *in Illinois, and encourage consumers in the Land of Lincoln to support the small businesses and merchants that create jobs within our communities and reinvest in our local economies.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield, this THIRTEENTH *day of* NOVEMBER*, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* TWELVE.*, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and* NINETY-FOURTH

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR