



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pat Quinn, Governor

Joseph Costigan, Director

**Message from Joseph Costigan, Director, Illinois Department of Labor
on the Department's Accomplishments in 2012**

The year 2012 marked the 95th year of operation for the Illinois Department of Labor. Although the Department has undergone a significant transformation throughout the years, the underlying principles and philosophy on which the agency was founded in 1917 remain intact today.

The Department strives to fulfill its mission to promote the safety and protect wages of Illinois workers through the enforcement of labor laws. During this past year, the Department worked to improve its delivery of service, which included the creation of a new investigative process that helped thousands of workers to recover earned wages more quickly. Through its overall enforcement efforts, the Department recovered more than \$6.2 million in unpaid and underpaid wages on behalf of workers -- a dramatic increase of \$2.1 million in owed wages from the previous year.

In addition, for the first time in its history, the Department filed class actions to secure wages owed to more impacted workers. Using this new expedited approach, the Department recovered more than \$500,000 for more than 2,000 workers in two cases.

I am proud of the progress our Department has made so far to help workers recover hard-earned wages, especially during these tough economic times. Going forward, we know we have more work to do. The Department will continue to find ways to enhance its investigative and enforcement efforts and better serve Illinois' working families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Costigan".

Joseph Costigan
Director