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## IFA Names Christopher Meister as New Executive Director

(Chicago, IL – Dec. 8, 2009) -- The Illinois Finance Authority Board of Directors today named Christopher Meister as the agency's new Executive Director. Meister has long provided leadership to the state's economic development efforts. Most recently, he directed the IFA on an interim basis as Co-Authorized Officer, after two years as General Counsel and Deputy Director.

As the IFA's chief legal officer, Meister played a key role working with Governor Pat Quinn's office on legislation to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency and coal projects through IFA financing tools (SB 1906-96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly). Meister also helped win passage of bills to increase the state limit for the IFA's bond program for beginning farmers (SB 260 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) and to boost the IFA's bond authorization limit to \$28.1 billion (SB 2883-95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly). The Governor nominated Meister in a letter to the Board last week.

Before joining the IFA in 2007, Meister was legislative director for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, where he also served as that agency's primary liaison to the General Assembly. Key economic development legislation in his tenure there included the Film Production Services Tax Credit and River Edge Redevelopment Zone bill to revive and redevelop environmentally challenged properties adjacent to rivers in Aurora, East St. Louis and Rockford.

"Chris Meister has worked hard on behalf of Illinois farmers, businesses, hospitals and government to ensure that they have access to financing that helps create and retain jobs," said IFA Board Chairman William Brandt. "Chris' strong economic development skills provide the leadership to increase access to capital markets at a time when our economy most needs the assistance IFA provides."

"I want to thank Governor Quinn, Chairman Brandt and the entire IFA Board for giving me this unique opportunity to help put more people back to work across Illinois," said Meister. "We must continue being innovative, aggressive and nimble with our various financial tools to help businesses of all sizes and types expand and create more and better jobs."

### About the Illinois Finance Authority

The Illinois Finance Authority provides expert, hands-on support to help businesses get the capital they need for growth. Expanding access to capital markets through tools that might otherwise not be available to Illinois businesses, the agency serves as a conduit to connect worthwhile projects with willing finance partners. The IFA continually seeks new projects and invites developers, financiers and community partners to contact the agency to see how IFA can help strengthen local communities.

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