

# I-88 WEST

in the middle of everywhere



## The location that connects you to the Midwest ...and the world

[www.i88west.com](http://www.i88west.com)

At a cost that connects with your bottom line

### ACCESS. AFFORDABILITY. AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

#### You'll find it all in the I-88 West Corridor

You need a location that balances operating costs and quality of life. Delivers ready market access. And is in a community that will work with you—today and for years to come.

That's why the I-88 West Corridor is the right location for your business.

Close to the Midwest's major population and distribution centers—without the cost and hassle of a metro location.

Our central location is just 70 miles west of the Chicago suburbs, 40 miles east of the Quad Cities and within hours of Minneapolis, St. Louis and Milwaukee.

The perfect location for the logistics, distribution and manufacturing industries.



## Lower wage and benefit costs

Your dollars go further in the I-88 West corridor: Wages for typical distribution center positions are 6–13% lower than the U.S. average.

The I-88 West region is one of the few pockets left in the state of Illinois with very low union activity as measured by union elections per 100,000 population.

## Ready-to-go sites and buildings

You'll find a variety of shovel-ready sites that can accommodate facilities of 500,000 sq. ft. or more, plus a number of attractive existing buildings. And we offer exceptional savings over a comparable suburban Chicago location—for instance, the cost of building a distribution center in the I-88 West corridor is 38% lower than the cost of building a similar-sized facility in suburban Chicago.



## Easy access to intermodal transportation

Volatile fuel costs make it critical to have ready access to multiple shipping options. The I-88 West Corridor delivers.

- **Highways**—I-88 connects you directly to the Chicago area and to other metro hubs throughout the Midwest
- **Rail**—Both Union Pacific & Burlington Northern run through the region
- **Air**—Four nearby airports, including O'Hare International
- **Port access**—at the Mississippi barge in nearby Fulton
- **Global III Intermodal hub**—just 15 miles away

## A growing pool of skilled labor

With a civilian labor shed of approximately 76,000, the region has 9,650 available workers for new or expanding businesses. The I-88 West region has the skilled, ready workforce you need to locate or expand your business. The local workforce is well educated, experienced and growing. Two-thirds of the area's underemployed workers have experience in manufacturing or logistics so you'll be able to get your business up and running, quickly and smoothly.

### \$1.6 billion in corporate investment since 2000

These top businesses have already discovered the advantages of an I-88 West Corridor location:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Astec Mobile Screens         | • Raynor                       |
| • Borg Warner                  | • Spectrum Brands              |
| • Drives, Inc.                 | • Stanley National Hardware    |
| • Duke Energy                  | • Sterling Steel, LLC          |
| • Frantz Manufacturing Company | • UPM Raflatac                 |
| • IFH Group                    | • Wahl Clipper Corporation     |
| • Lee Wayne/Halo Corporation   | • Wal-Mart Distribution Center |



Tim Gonnigam, Astec Mobile Screens

"... a very business friendly environment. We've expanded twice and doubled our workforce—proof that this was a smart choice for us."

## Aggressive state and regional business incentives

The communities along our corridor offer some of the country's best business incentives, and have a history of adapting over time to meet changing business needs. Work with us to create jobs in our community and you may qualify for:

- **Tax credits**—on machinery, equipment and buildings
- **Tax exemptions**—on machinery and utilities
- **Tax abatements**—from 60% to 94%!

Plus! The area offers:

- **Enterprise zones**
- **Tax incremental financing**
- **Foreign trade zones**



The I-88 West Corridor recently extended water and sewer four miles to turn a farm field into a major distribution center.



## Employee-friendly living

We deliver what it takes to attract and retain top-notch employees.

- Short commutes—and no traffic jams
- Low crime rates
- Affordable housing
- Excellent schools
- Plus! A cost of living that's nearly 25% lower than US averages

## I-88 West Population

The I-88 West region and the neighboring area has a population of approximately 141,600.

# Cut costs. Speed time to market. Create success.



Discover the difference an I-88 West Corridor location can make for your business. Call today to get more details! Visit us at [www.i88west.com](http://www.i88west.com).

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The I-88 West Corridor Association is comprised of business and community leaders from Sterling, Rock Falls and Dixon, Ill., as well as officials from Lee and Whiteside counties, who collaborate to advance economic development opportunities within the region.