



June 1, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karin Weddig Durant, IEEP
kweddig-durant@ieep.com
(951) 779-6700 x 227

**VIRGINA BASED UTTERMOST COMPANY LOCATES
DISTRIBUTION FACILITY IN CITY OF RIVERSIDE**

The Uttermost Company, a manufacturer and distributor of home accessories for clients such as Pottery Barn, Costco, JC Penney, Bombay and Sam's Club, has located a west cost distribution center in the Sycamore Canyon area of the city of Riverside. The company leased a 153,000 square foot warehouse and will employ 35 people. They began operations in May 2006.

Founded in 1975 by Bob and Belle Cooper, the company has proven itself a unique and successful family-owned business. In 2005, The Uttermost Company reported sales of \$102 million with 500 employees nationwide. The company's name was inspired from a scripture in the New Testament, Acts 1:8. In 2000 and again in 2005, all employees were invited to celebrate the 25th and 30th anniversary of the company with an all expense paid cruise to the Bahamas.

Uttermost previously manufactured their products in the United States, but now manufactures in China to remain competitive. Today it owns about 65% of a factory in China and will distribute merchandise manufactured overseas from the Riverside facility.

"Uttermost is an excellent, high-quality privately-owned company. Based in Roanoke, VA, this represents the opening of their first West Coast facility. It was a pleasure to work with them,

and we are confident that they will continue to be very successful,” said John Earnhart, Lee & Associates, who represented Uttermost in the real estate transaction at Sycamore Canyon.

“Riverside was the right choice for Uttermost as it allowed us to move into a new building with high ceilings and up to date sprinkler system at the most reasonable price,” said Ken Delp, The Uttermost Company spokesman. “The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) assisted in this decision by introducing us to the different city and county leaders so we had all of the necessary facts before ultimately deciding on Riverside.”

The IEEP began working with this company in November of 2005. In collaboration with partners Team Earnhart of Lee & Associates, the county of Riverside, Riverside Workforce Development, city of Riverside and IEEP members, IEEP provided Uttermost with several site options, tax information, community information and labor force availability and cost.

“There is a reason the Inland Empire is the nation’s leader in the industrial real estate market and the logistics sector was the third highest creator of jobs in 2005. Simply put: state-of-the-art new distribution product, close proximity to the port (translation: lower transportation costs), availability and quality of labor, and transportation infrastructure,” said Karin Weddig Durant, vice president at IEEP.

Inland Empire Economic Partnership is the region’s only private, non-profit economic development corporation that promotes Southern California’s Inland Empire with the purpose of enriching the region’s economy through business attraction, expansion, retention, and creation.

#####