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Breaking News:

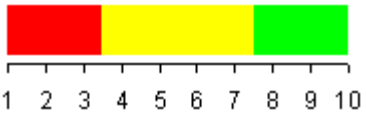
GOVERNOR TO MAKE GOOD ON COMMITMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

GOVERNOR VENTURA WELCOMES HOLIDAY TREE TO CAPITOL



Jim Wilson, President of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, officially presents the Capitol Rotunda Tree to Governor Ventura. The Partners in Praise Girls Choir provided music for this event, which included the presentation of the Reception Room Tree by Eric Wegner and Dan Almendinger of the Minnesota Christmas Tree Association, and egg nog and butter cookies from Sarah Olson, 49th Princess Kay of the Milky Way.

Governor releases *Big Plan* results in "The Big Accounting"



Click here to read Big Accounting report

Press Release

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
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Policy

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2002-03 Budget
Beliefs & Budget Principles
2002 Bill Tracking
2001 Bill Tracking
Testimony
Federal Priorities
Initiatives



"Policy" is my initiatives and beliefs of how government should run and what it should do for its citizens.

In my administration, the vision for my policy is called *The Big Plan.*

The Big Plan is a group of 29 initiatives categorized under four areas: Healthy, Vital Communities; Self-Sufficient People; Service, Not Systems; and Minnesota: World Competitor.

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The Press Office

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Press Releases
Speeches
Biography
Weekly Radio Show
Events
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Executive Orders

The communications office is responsible for press releases, speechwriting, videos, the Web site and staffing media interviews.

In other words, this area of the Web site is here not only for the press, but it is my way to keep you informed on what I am doing as your governor.

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The Ventura Administration

Audio



As governor, part of my job is to oversee government. When I was elected, one of the first things I had to do was build a cabinet of 25 department leaders or commissioners.

I have been complimented by politicians, business leaders and citizens for my selection of commissioners.

I set out an agenda and let my commissioners do their jobs. They are the experts in their respective fields, and I depend on them to assist me on many important state matters.

Each commissioner operates from a strategic plan. They have identified key indicators of success, set targets, and are tracking the results. At www.DepartmentResults.state.mn.us you can take a look and let us know what you think.
Below are links to each agency.

State Departments - Commissioners

Administration	David Fisher
Agriculture	Gene Hugoson
Bureau of Mediation Services	Lance Teachworth
Children, Families & Learning	Christine Jax
Commerce	James Bernstein
Corrections	Sheryl Ramstad Hvass
Economic Security	Earl Wilson
Employee Relations	Ann Schluter

Finance	Anne Barry
Health	Jan Malcolm
Housing Finance	Katherine Hadley
Human Rights	Janeen Rosas
Human Services	Linda Anderson
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board	John Swift
Labor & Industry	Shirley Chase
Metropolitan Council	Ted Mondale
Military Affairs	Adjutant General Eugene Andreotti
Minnesota Planning	Jack Uldrich
Natural Resources	Allen Garber
Pollution Control	Karen Studders
Public Safety	Charlie Weaver
Revenue	Dennis Erno
Trade & Economic Development	Rebecca Yanisch
Transportation	Douglas Weiszhaar
Veterans Affairs	Jeff Olson

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Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

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When I decided to run for governor, I looked for a running mate who had a strong background in education. I found her in Mae Schunk, someone who has dedicated her life to enriching the lives of young people. Lt. Governor Schunk is one of the hardest-working people in my administration, and you can see what I mean by going to her Web site.

Chances are that Mae has been to your area of the state. She has made a pledge to visit every school district in our first term.

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The Big Plan

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www.BigPlanResults.state.mn.us

I envision Minnesota as the best place to grow a business because of high-skilled workers and a supportive tax climate; the best place to retire because of affordable, accessible health care and living options; the best place to raise a family because of livable communities and excellent public education; the best place to immigrate because of economic and community opportunities; the best place to vacation and conference due to our hospitality and tourism industries; the best place to farm because of our commitment to competitive agriculture worldwide; and the best place to live because of our ethical, responsive, public, non-profit and private sector leaders and involved citizens of all ages.

The lead departments for each Big Plan initiative have identified key
indicators of success, set targets, and are tracking the results. Take a
look at www.BigPlanResults.state.mn.us and let us know what you think.

Initiatives

Healthy, Vital Communities

- The Best K-12 Public Education in the Nation
- Improving the Competitive Position of Rural Minnesota
- Light Rail Transit
- Growing Smart in Minnesota
- Partnerships for Affordable Housing
- Multimodal Transportation to Get People and Goods Around Minnesota
- Telecommunications as Economic Development
- Living Human Rights & Respect
- Reliable Energy & Consumer Choices
- Ensuring an Information Highway that Leaves No Community Excluded

Self-Sufficient People

- Transitioning from Welfare to Self-Sufficiency
- A Health System for the Next 50 Years
- Insisting that Parents PARENT
- Independent Living
- Assuring Lifelong Learning for Work and Life
- Tobacco Settlement Endowments: Improving Health Status for All Minnesotans

Service, Not Systems

- Rein in Rulemaking & Excessive Regulation
- Single House Legislature
- A Tax System that Makes Sense
- Active, Engaged Citizens
- State Departments: Best Bang for the Buck
- Reforming "Politics As Usual"
- Electronic Government Services Initiative

Minnesota: World Competitor

- Trade: Tapping the World's Interest in Minnesota
- Agriculture: Competitive Anywhere in the World
- Developing the Workforce for Tomorrow
- The Best Climate to Grow Business
- Commercialization of New Technologies
- Jesse "The Tourism Governor" Ventura: Promoting Minnesota, Promoting the Industry







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For immediate release:
Friday, December 20, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA TO MAKE GOOD ON COMMITMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Governor Jesse Ventura announced today that he would allow the December local government aid payment to proceed as prescribed by state law.

Yesterday, Governor-elect Tim Pawlenty asked Governor Ventura to consider reducing the December payment to cities and counties in order to help the state balance its books by the end of the current biennium in June 2003.

In making his decision Governor Ventura cited legislative action last spring that guaranteed local governments that they would be held harmless as the Legislature crafted a solution to the current deficit. Had the Legislature approved the budget-balancing plan proposed by the governor in January, cities and counties would have shared in the solution, but would have had almost a whole year to prepare for the reduction in aid.

Ventura noted that to reduce the payment now would in effect be an eleventh hour violation of the state's fiduciary responsibility to honor the Legislature's commitments to Minnesota's local governments.

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For immediate release:
Monday, November 25, 2002

VENTURA ADMINISTRATION GRADES ITSELF

"The Big Accounting" takes detailed look at what worked and what didn't

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today released "The Big Accounting," a summary of the success of every one of the 29 initiatives laid out three years ago in *The Big Plan*.

"I've always preached accountability, and this is the ultimate example of being accountable," said Governor Ventura. "If you're wondering how we did on anything we set out to do, here it is in black and white."

The Big Plan is divided into four overall goals: Healthy, Vital Communities; Self-Sufficient People; Minnesota: World Competitor; and Service, Not Systems. Each has six to ten initiatives, such as "Light Rail Transit," "Single House Legislature," and "Active, Engaged Citizens." In The Big Accounting, each initiative receives a grade on a scale of 1 to 10. The ratings were done by experts both outside state government and inside the Ventura Administration.

"I'm pleased at how we did and extremely proud," the governor said. "We didn't sugarcoat it--if we came up short, that's in the report. But overall, we accomplished an awful lot of what we set out to do. And that was all while being the third party in a two-party system."

Among the highlights from The Big Accounting: Light Rail Transit received an 8.9, Youth Tobacco Endowments received a 9.0, Promoting Minnesota received an 8.9 and Active, Engaged Citizens an 8.7.

The entire report is available at www.bigplanresults.state.mn.us

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Feedback to the Governor

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My administration has always invited real people, not just lobbyists and special interest groups, to participate in state government. Tell me your thoughts about how to improve state government. Ideas are shared with my commissioners and staff and can be important elements of government reform. Although your comments are appreciated, due to the popularity of e-mail and the limits on my time, you should not expect a personal response.

Have a question about a state agency?
Need information or resources to deal with a problem?

Please choose one of the topics to e-mail me. Make sure to include your name, address, and phone number and we will do our best to respond promptly.

Human Services
Welfare
Medical Assistance
Child Support
Disability Related Services
Services for Older Minnesotans

Highway Projects

Taxes
Property
Sales
Income
Local Government Aid
City/County Aid

Employment
Rehabilitation
State Services for the Blind
Unemployment
Disability Determination

Motor Vehicles
Driver's Licenses/Exams
License Plates/Tabs/Vehicle titles

All Other Issues

Let your voice be heard!

If you would like to send an email to the Governor's Office

please click the link here or send an email to Miscellaneous.Gov@state.mn.us.

After you have sent your message to me, you will receive an auto-reply message to let you know that your comments have been read and recorded. Although all comments are noted and contribute to the ongoing policy discussions, you should not expect to receive a personalized response.

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Beliefs & Budget Principles

Beliefs

Accountable, Responsive and Limited Government

"Love is bigger than government."

Jesse Ventura

Government doesn't exist to sustain itself on policies and programs that no longer serve the people. No duplication, no dabbling, no pork or fat. For government to serve the people of our State, it needs to be *accountable, responsible and limited;* it does not need to be bigger. "That's how we've always done it..." don't cut it. Government should reward creativity, efficiency and productivity - - and create an environment that fosters all of the above. It should encourage competition. It should leave tax and spending decisions to the people - - no unfunded mandates. Personal freedoms must remain untouched. There is a place for whizbang thinking about state government.

Personal Responsibility and Opportunities For Self-sufficiency

"You can't legislate against stupidity."

"No person in Minnesota is ever done learning."

-Jesse Ventura

Folks must make smart decisions and take personal responsibility for their choices. The role of the State is to guarantee *opportunities for self-sufficiency.* A strong public education system is critical to self--sufficiency. While the State should partner with the private and non-profit sectors to ensure the best opportunities for students to succeed in our public schools,

learning is up to the students. Communities must support their local schools, and parents should be involved in their children's education. Learning is a lifelong process.

Bring Government Back To The People

"Every single vote in Minnesota counts."

"There are no dumb questions."

-Jesse Ventura

Celebrate citizen involvement in public life. Listen to people. Encourage public service. Invite real people -- not just lobbyists and special interest groups -- to participate in government. Keep things clear and simple. Engage citizens in the dialogue. Welcome youth and the disenfranchised into the political system. Give them a voice, hear their ideas. Our youth are our future.

Budget Principles

"Be fiscally conservative and prudent -- Never forget it's the people's money"

Jesse Ventura

- Do what's necessary ... not necessarily what's "nice" to do.
- Prevent future costs where possible.
- Pay close attention to the future costs of policy and budget decisions, and insist that projected budgets are balanced for four years.
- Set a responsible budget, live within it, and settle up any actual surpluses with taxpayers at the end of the biennium.

"Do the right things and do them well"

Jesse Ventura

- Evaluate programs in tangible ways for real, cost effective results.
- Reform or eliminate programs if they are redundant or aren't producing desired results.
- Include sunset clauses in all new programs so that they receive proper evaluation.

"Provide incentives for desirable behavior"

Jesse Ventura

- Competition works and is even good in government.
- Match responsibility and accountability at all levels.
- Put decisions at the appropriate level, closest to the people.
- Leverage private and non-profit support.
- Support fees where users have a voice in the rates and the program results.

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2002 Bill Tracking

Final

Ch.#	Res.#	HF#	SF#	Title	Pre-sented	Sign	Veto	In law, no signature
	6	2681*	2469	Resolution to the President and Congress pledging support and extending sympathy and appreciation - September 11, 2001	01/30	01/31		
220		351*	264	Omnibus budget and appropriation bill	02/22		02/25	
	7	3411	3207*	Urging pension benefit guaranty corp. to delay termination of LTV Steel Mining pension plan	02/25	02/27		
219		2698	2655*	Extending the authority of the board of physical therapy to adopt rules on licensee ethics	02/25	02/27		
221		97	58*	Changing terminology in statute of references to mentally ill	02/25	02/27		
222		3049	3019*	Predatory offenders registration requirement expansion	02/28	02/28		
223		1297	1471*	Municipal board statutory provisions conformity	03/04	03/05		
224		2642*	2760	Mine inspector annual audit requirement modified	03/06	03/07		
225		3116*	2822	Environment and natural resources trust fund provisions modifications	03/06	03/07		
226		2624*	2441	Shakopee public utilities commission increased	03/06	03/07		

				from three to five members				
227		3148*	3025	Speech-language pathologist and audiologist registration requirements modified	03/06	03/07		
228		2992*	2865	Occupational therapist temporary licensure terms modified	03/06	03/07		
229		3062*	2839	Hennepin and Ramsey county juvenile court judge term of service limitations	03/06	03/07		
230		2748	2573*	ISD#801, Browns Valley; School year start before Labor Day	03/11	03/13		
231		2695*	2531	Minneapolis firefighters relief assn. Retirement provisions corrections provided	03/11	03/13		
232		58*	389	Beer kegs identification and sales requirements	03/11	03/13		
233		3190*	3111	Juvenile court data in statewide supervision system	03/11	03/13		
234		2783*	2671	No-fault auto insurance residual liability coverage regulated	03/13	03/14		
235		1189*	1376	Election of municipal council members provided after annexation	03/13	03/14		
236		1620*	2210	Orderly annexation agreements strengthened	03/13	03/14		
237		2987*	2873	Cook County mineral center cemetery conveyance to Grand Portage reservation authorized	03/13	03/14		
238		3202*	2801	Delano public utilities commission increased to five members	03/13	03/14		
239		2629*	2913	Retired individuals licensed by the board of ALSLAG&I Design to use a retired professional designation	03/13	03/14		
240		3309*	3082	Nursing home bed	03/13	03/14		

				moratorium exception modification				
241		2637*	2472	Temporary town officeholders authorized in the event of inability or refusal to serve	03/13	03/14		
242		3344*	2892	Second judicial district combined jurisdiction program authorized	03/13	03/14		
243		3296*	3206	State employee social security admin. Duties transfer; dependent classification	03/13	03/14		
244		1547	1495*	Biodiesel fuel mandate	03/13			03/15
245		2612*	2562	LAELSLAG&I certified interior designer requirement circumstances revised	03/13	03/15		
246		2899*	2711	Livable community demonstration account provisions modified	03/20	03/21		
247		3584*	3302	Judgment calculation interest rate formulas modified	03/20	03/21		
248		2813*	2803	Child care providers required to develop policies for reporting suspected child maltreatment	03/20	03/21		
249		2766*	2475	Motor vehicle fuel franchise sale federal code compliance expiration date removed	03/20	03/21		
250		3189*	3135	Street-sweeping vehicles defined as special mobile equipment for registration	03/20	03/21		
251		2742*	2757	State agency contested case procedures regulation provided	03/20	03/21		
252		2531*	2381	Hospice care providers regulated, and criminal penalties imposed	03/20	03/22		
253		3275	2932*	Citizen water quality monitoring encouraged	03/20	03/22		
254		3133	2971*	State procurement competitive bidding	03/20	03/22		

				process codification				
255		1097	1072*	State photograph designation	03/20	03/22		
256		3074	2834*	Steele County recorder appointment	03/20	03/22		
257		3512	3258*	Garfield state land exchange	03/20	03/22		
258		2652	2434*	Polk County recorder and auditor-treasurer appointment	03/20	03/22		
259		2603	2627*	Optometrists and physicians contact lenses prescriptions regulation	03/20	03/22		
260		3238	3115*	State energy efficiency installment purchases regulation provisions modifications	03/20	03/22		
261		3462	3080*	Preneed funeral arrangement trust accounts depositors reporting requirements	03/20	03/22		
262		3348	3136*	Workers compensation provisions modifications	03/20	03/22		
263		2753	2590*	Carlton County recorder appointment authorized	03/20	03/22		
264		2796*	2670	Minneapolis asphalt plant construction authority	03/20	03/22		
265		2792*	2575	Appliance recycling required	03/20	03/22		
266		3373	3045*	Fourth judicial district domestic fatality review team pilot project extension	03/21	03/25		
267		3362	3109*	Municipal police departments black patrol vehicles	03/21	03/25		
268		2662	2611*	Interstate Compact for adult offender supervision	03/21	03/25		
269		1934	1030*	National crime prevention and privacy compact	03/21	03/25		
270		94	222*	Game and fish laws gross overlimit violations penalties	03/21	03/25		

271		2873	2578*	County Human Services and public health clients support program	03/21	03/25		
272		2993	2463*	Nurses overtime work hours regulation; border state nursing licenses reciprocity	03/21	03/25		
273		3263	3167*	Sex offenders civil commitment determinations data access authority	03/21	03/25		
274		1413	1226*	No-fault automobile insurance full medical expense benefits entitlement	03/21	03/25		
275		3276	3100*	Medical assistance reimbursement for tribal health services	03/21	03/25		
276		3291	3124*	Nursing and board care homes resident reimbursement classifications provisions modification	03/21	03/25		
277		3245	3126*	Health care and human services programs provisions technical modifications	03/21	03/25		
278		3061	3117*	Metropolitan Council interceptor facilities continued use determination	03/21	03/25		
279		2600	2419*	Child care programs wading pools public swimming pools regulations exemption	03/21	03/25		
280		197*	107	Noncommercial television station and metro bus garage grant provided	03/25		03/27	
281		2678	2768*	Medical assistance demonstration project provisions modified	03/25	03/26		
282		3579	3073*	Domestic abuse order for protection or no contact order misdemeanor violations standard clarification	03/25	03/26		
283		2570*	2553	Automobile insurance damaged window glass	03/25		03/26	

				claims payment basis modifications				
284		3274*	3068	Military active service protections	03/25	03/26		
285		2882*	3122	Electric personal assistive mobility device and roadway and sidewalk regulations	03/25	03/26		
286		3078	2821*	Real estate brokers and salespersons regulatory provisions modifications	03/25	03/26		
287		2664	2459*	Supplemental nursing services agencies registration criteria expansion	03/25	03/26		
288		1885	2115*	Motor vehicle dealers surety bond requirements clarification	03/25	03/26		
289		3091	2764*	Mentally retarded persons incidents and emergencies reporting standards modification	03/25	03/26		
290		2932	2614*	Foster care placement communicable diseases disclosure requirement	03/25	03/26		
291		3080	3055*	Metropolitan transit police provisions modifications	03/25	03/26		
292		2757	2692*	Human services license applicants disqualifications set aside authority modification	03/25	03/26		
293		2889	2933*	Individual sewage treatment systems installation	03/25	03/26		
294		2635	2550*	Special education services costs reimbursement, instruction services requirements modification	03/25	03/26		
295		3222	2953*	Fire insurance excess coverage prohibitions	03/25	03/26		
296		2933	2546*	Rockville and Pleasant Lake consolidation plan joint development required	03/25	03/26		

297		2884*	2715	Motor vehicle excessive gross weight civil fine imposition modified	03/25	03/26		
298		3196*	2966	State procurement law ethical provisions clarified, Administration department provisions modifications	03/25	03/26		
299		3205	2890*	Public work contracts costs recovery waiver provisions unenforceability	03/26	03/27		
300		3223	2793*	Medical assistance reimbursement for out of state services to children with severe emotional disturbance	03/26	03/27		
301		2842	3244*	Evidentiary laboratory blood sample reports electronic signaturees	03/26	03/27		
302		3224	3034*	Hennepin County medical center cooperative purchasing organization contacting authority	03/26	03/27		
303		3240	2814*	Electronic voting authorized for cooperatives	03/26	03/27		
304		2596	2673*	Child custody provided for by de facto custodians and third parties	03/26	03/27		
305		3328	3278*	Driver education and drivers manual organ and tissue donation instruction and info requirements	03/26	03/27		
306		3070	2697*	Real estate transactions disclosure requirements	03/28	04/01		
307		3492	3315*	Insurance provisions modification; medical malpractice insurance joint underwriting assoc. issuance prohibition	03/28	04/01		
308		3221	3145*	Military justice code revisions	03/28	04/01		
309		3506	3084*	State and local government units auditing and reporting	03/28		04/01	

				requirements modifications				
310		1224*	887	Medical response unit registration provided	03/28	04/01		
311		2785	2542*	Business and nonprofit corporations and Limited liability companies regulation provisions modifications	03/28	04/01		
312		3519	2675*	Recyclable material container requirements expansion; state agency motor vehicles clean fuels use requirement	04/03	04/04		
313		2647	2569*	Veterans homes discretionary admissions means of support exclusions expansion	04/03	04/04		
314		2840	2580*	DWI drivers license revocation hearing, juvenile court jurisdiction, child endangerment, escape from custody and evidence of prior conduct provision modifications	04/03	04/04		
315		3169	2881*	Cities or towns affordable housing regulation authority	04/03	04/05		
316		3076	2612*	Funeral home vehicles flashing red lights use authorization	04/03	04/05		
317		3029	2680*	Residential housing ventilation system installation requirements elimination, new energy code adoption, etc.	04/03	04/05		
318		3058	2739*	Cities additional liquor licenses; hotel rooms liquor cabinets hours of sale restrictions exemption	04/03	04/05		
319		2706*	3076	Obstruction of emergency vehicle during emergency duty misdemeanor penalty provided.	04/03	04/05		
320		3030	3322*	Met Council service	04/04	04/08		

				capacity external use, sewer facilities depreciation rate modification and obsolete waste disposal				
321		3034	2949*	School bus drivers, managers, private detectives and protective agents and liquor license applicants criminal background checks	04/04	04/08		
322		2841	2533*	Criminal offenders county correctional services costs payment	04/04	04/08		
323		2684	2678*	Natural resources department provisions modifications	04/04	04/08		
324		3432	3352*	Drycleaner environmental response and reimbursement provisions modifications	04/04	04/08		
325		3209	3054*	Petrofund consultant and contractor registration period modifications and cost reimbursements reinstatement or continuation	04/04	04/08		
326		3464	3174*	Money transmitters act small business category	04/04	04/08		
327		1763	1811*	Public drainage systems jurisdiction transfer	04/04	04/08		
328		1683	2150*	Technology circuits or systems contractors and power limited technicians	04/04	04/08		
329		3125*	2987	Telecommunications access for communication-impaired persons program renamed modifications; telephone companies electronic billing authority	04/04	04/08		
330		2988*	3023	Insurance licenses, fees, and coverages regulated; health care administration simplified; and technical	04/04	04/08		

				provisions modified				
331		3497	3015*	Commerce Department insurance fraud prevention; crime of employment of runners	04/09	04/10		
332		2719*	2827	Uniform athlete agents act providing student athlete agent registration adopted	04/09	04/10		
333		1517*	1443	Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes	04/09	04/12		
334		2835	3028*	National and community service commission nonprofit corporation creation	04/09	04/12		
335		2735	2457*	Civil commitment standards modifications; mental health system report	04/12	04/16		
336		2763	2592*	Mutual insurance holding companies reorganization to stock companies; etc.	04/12	04/16		
337		3537	3288*	Firefighters interest arbitration decision provision expiration date extension under PELRA	04/12	04/16		
338		3455	3380*	Postnuptial contracts provisions modifications	04/12	04/16		
339		2751	2650*	Credit unions regulation provisions modifications	04/12	04/16		
340		3445	3238*	Nonprofit neighborhood organization members directors election, voting right notice option	04/12	04/16		
341		3193	2957*	Dentist practice violations reporting requirements	04/15	04/17		
342		3257	2988*	Financial institutions detached facilities, charges and fees, and mortgage prepayment penalties regulated	04/15	04/17		
343		2687	3075*	Motor vehicle sales tax payment for sales in violation of dealer	04/15	04/17		

				licensing requirements				
344		3393	3114*	Child support obligors limited drivers licenses and payment agreements; child support collection & enforcement	04/15	04/17		
345		1524	1555*	Fertilizer use regulation	04/18	04/19		
346		2935	2909*	Health maintenance organizations rural demonstration projects; enrollee cost sharing flexibility	04/18	04/19		
347		2657	2540*	Probate property succession and power of appointment provisions modifications	04/18	04/19		
348		3048	2460*	Crime of assuming responsibility for criminal acts; civil liability for destroying field crop products, animals, organisms or cells	04/22	04/24		
349		2473*	2807	Organ donors; Darlene Luther anatomical gift act specifying intent and consent requirements	04/22	04/24		
350		2525	2960*	Fireworks definition and legalization; employers required to allow unpaid leave for employees for volunteer firefighting duties	04/25	04/29		
351		2920	2674*	Omnibus game, fish and forest bill provisions modifications	04/25	04/29		
352		2618*	3373	Personnel not public data sharing authority	04/30	05/01		
353		1359	2125*	Wildlife management areas land additions and exchanges and ATV use regulations	04/30	05/01		
354		3249	2998*	Alcohol and drug counselors case presentation & oral examination licensing requirements temporary waiver	04/30	05/01		

355		2970*	3010	Recreational motor vehicles use provisions modification	04/30	05/01		
356		3509	3257*	Housing and redevelopment authority officers grant or loan eligibility	04/30	05/01		
357		2492	2363*	Homeowners and automobile insurers credit scoring use restriction and regulation	04/30	05/01		
358		2995	3168*	Walker authorized to maintain and operate state water tower at Ah-Gwah-Ching; water tank service contract bidding exception provided	04/30	05/01		
359		2960	2568*	Hennepin county parking facilities and real property leases provisions modification and repeal	05/02	05/03		
360		3443	3200*	Nonprofit organizations operating environmental learning centers as municipalities for tort claims purposes	05/06	05/08		
361		3346	3026*	Interstate telemedicine services regulation	05/06	05/08		
362		3359*	3005	Nurses protocol modifications; clinical nurse specialists specialty certification waiver	05/06	05/08		
363		3379	3384*	Campaign finance and public disclosure law provisions modified	05/08	05/09		
364		3199	3298*	Transportation provisions modifications	05/08	05/09		
365		2573	2707*	Real estate task force funding provisions modification and clarification	05/13		05/15	
366		3025	2727*	State park and recreation area land additions and deletions; state land & tax-	05/13	05/15		

				forfeited land sales				
367		2710	3246*	Telephone solicitation calls regulation	05/13	05/15		
368		2649	2448*	Motor vehicle registration records personal information disclosure	05/13	05/15		
369		3719	3463*	Pesticides application prohibition exceptions (gypsy moth bill)	05/09	05/10		
370		3200*	3155	Dentist and dental hygienist guest licenses and dental assistant guest registration established	05/13	05/15		
371		3203*	3233	Public safety vehicle titling, licensing, and registration provisions modified; traffic regulations modified	05/14	05/17		
372		2550	2392*	Emergency 911 telecommunications system	05/14	05/17		
373		3183*	3219	Agriculture provisions modifications	05/14	05/17		
374		3270*		Omnibus supplemental budget balancing bill	05/15		05/18	
375		3236	3099*	Medical assistance continuing care programs and MFIP hardship extensions expanded	05/16	05/18		
376		2973	2738*	Natural resources provisions modifications	05/16	05/20		
377		2498*		Omnibus tax bill providing a sales tax rebate, property tax reform, tax rate modifications, and appropriating money	05/15			05/18
378		1868	1755*	School employee health insurance plan feasibility study provided, and money appropriated	05/15		05/18	
379		3163*	2792	Revisor's bill	05/17	05/21		
380		3648	3431*	Employment &	05/17	05/21		

				economic development				
381		3304	2433*	Criminal sexual conduct definition expanded relating to vulunerable adults and special transportation service	05/17	05/21		
382		3129	3134*	Individual sewage treatment classification clarified and waste tire grant and loan program abolished	05/17	05/20		
383		3406	3256*	Farmers' market or community event prepared food sale limitations modified	05/17	05/20		
384		2903	2486*	Health care cost reduction and improving health care quality report required	05/18	05/21		
385		3613	3172*	Repeat sex offenders conditional release period extension & harassment and stalking crimes enhanced penalty	05/18	05/21		
386		3073*	2940	Gambling provisions modifications	05/18	05/21		
387		2989	3024*	Commerce provisions modification	05/20	05/22		
388		2726	2422*	Motor vehicle dealers transfers deadline clarified, and certain vehicle registration taxes calculated	05/18	05/21		
389		3041	3231*	License applicants nondesignated addresses classification	05/18	05/21		
390		2836	2572*	Region nine development commission nonprofit corporation establishment	05/18	05/22		
391		2598*	2411	School pledge of allegiance recitation requirement	05/18		05/22	
392		3127*	2984	Retirement provisions modifications	05/20	05/22		
393		3618*		Omnibus Bonding Bill	05/20	05/22	line items	

394		2886*	2734	Leech Lake reservation tribal band members additional election day identification procedures established	05/20	05/22		
395		2625	2908*	Internet privacy and commercial electronic mail solicitation regulation	05/20	05/22		
396		3092*	3085	Health care provider immunity granted for providing specific reference check data to a prospective new employer	05/20	05/22		
397		2214*	1857	Stadium bill	05/20	05/22		
398		2972*	2740	Energy regulation and technical corrections provided, comprehensive energy plan for public buildings required	05/20	05/22		
399		3350*	2811	Nurses prescription drug and vaccine protocols modified, Ryan White comprehensive AIDS resources, etc.	05/20	05/22		
400		3410	2891*	Revisor bill #2	05/20	05/22		
401		2515*		Omnibus health and human services bill transferring tobacco endowment funds to the general fund, anti-terrorism	05/20	05/22		
402		3031*	2669	Minnesota Emergency Health Powers Act (bio-terrorism)	05/20	05/22		
403		2780*	2541	Real estate land conveyance and documentation recording provisions	05/20	05/22		

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Bill Tracking

In the past two years over 4,000 bills were introduced in the Minnesota House and Senate.

Everything from tab reductions to the sales tax rebate.

This year's session was to end May 21; however, legislators needed a special session and barely avoided causing a government shutdown. Below are tables for both the special session and the regular session bill movements.

Note from the Webmaster: Viewing of this page may be distorted, we are working on a solution.

Special Session Bill Tracking

CH	House File	Senate File	Description	Presented	Signed	Vetoed
1	6	11*	Omnibus higher education appropriations	06/27/01	06/30/01	
2	10	10*	Omnibus environment, natural resources and agriculture appropriations	06/27/01	06/29/01	line-items
3	4*	5	Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations	06/28/01	06/30/01	
4	5*	12	Omnibus jobs, housing and economic development appropriations	06/28/01	06/30/01	line-items
5	1*	13	Omnibus tax policy	06/29/01	06/30/01	
6	2*	6	Omnibus K-12 education appropriations	06/30/01	06/30/01	
7		18	Apartment manager background checks	06/30/01	06/30/01	
8	7	7*	Omnibus transportation, public safety and judicial appropriations	06/30/01	06/30/01	line-item
			Omnibus health, human services and			

9	3	4*	corrections appropriations	06/30/01	06/30/01	
10	9	9*	Omnibus state government appropriations	06/30/01	06/30/01	line-items
11		21*	Transitional financing for certain government functions under certain conditions	06/30/01		07/02/01
12	8*	25	Capital bonding bill	06/30/01	06/30/01	line-item
13		1*	Revisor's bill	06/30/01	06/30/01	

"Regular" Session Bill Tracking

CH	House	Senate	Description	Presented	Signed	Vetoed
218	1569*	1628	Minnesota state college and university customized trainer positions reclassified	05/25/01		05/29/01
217	1515*	1851	Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations bill	05/25/01		05/29/01
216	1541*	882	Landlords current tenant reports acceptance requirement; tenant application fees regulation	05/25/01	05/29/01	
215	1338	1054*	Insurance provisions modifications	05/25/01	05/29/01	
214	2037	2208*	Public finance provisions technical modifications specified and certain county capital improvement bonds sunset date extended	05/25/01	05/29/01	
213	1488	1769*	Transportation and highway provisions modifications	05/25/01	05/29/01	
212	659	722*	Energy conservation, production and regulatory provisions modifications	05/25/01	05/29/01	
211	1406*	1398	Maternal death review and study provided	05/25/01	05/29/01	
210	1261*	1937	Corrections provisions modification and clarification	05/25/01	05/29/01	
209	372	229*	Crime victim notification of expungement proceedings required	05/25/01	05/29/01	
208	1270	1541*	Commerce department provisions modifications; real estate education, research and recovery fund accelerated claims payment	05/25/01	05/29/01	

207	1310*	1205	State and local construction projects regulation	05/25/01	05/29/01	
206	1497*	1580	Lake county state land sales authorized, lakeshore land exchange terms modified to include wild rice lands	05/25/01	05/29/01	
205	1304	1464*	Lead poisoning prevention and food, beverage and lodging establishments inspection requirements modifications	05/25/01	05/29/01	
204	205	103*	Motor fuel theft civil liability	05/25/01	05/29/01	
203	1928	1407*	Health care access programs provisions modified	05/25/01	05/29/01	
202	1898	1068*	Government data classification and dissemination provisions	05/25/01	05/29/01	
201	2510	2249*	Revisor's bill	05/25/01	05/29/01	
200	2116	1965*	Repeal of obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties	05/25/01	05/29/01	
199	1893	1344*	Employers prohibited from requiring employees or applicants to pay for background checks or training	05/25/01	05/29/01	
198	1544	1367*	County creation and boundary change procedures modification	05/25/01	05/29/01	
197	848	969*	Corporations electronic search warrants; pornographic works depicting minors possession or dissemination penalty increases	05/25/01	05/29/01	
196	560	491*	Patient protections provisions modifications	05/23/01		05/25/01
195	1733	1561*	Uniform commercial code revised article 9 corrective and conforming amendments	05/23/01	05/25/01	
194	767	1215*	Human rights provisions modifications	05/23/01	05/24/01	
193	1994	1752*	Local liquor license provisions; on-sale intoxicating liquor licensees premix and dispensing machines use authority	05/23/01	05/25/01	
192	2514*	2368	Animal health board dangerous domestic animal diseases eradication emergency authority expansion	05/23/01	05/25/01	

191	1973*	2106	State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided	05/23/01	05/24/01	
190	1182*	831	Invention developer contract requirements modified	05/23/01	05/25/01	
189	1051*	936	Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated and statute of limitations clarification provided	05/23/01		05/25/01
188	708*	1113	Moter vehicle registration taxes exemption clarification for well drilling machines, pump hoists and related equipment	05/23/01	05/24/01	
187	2028*	1785	Environmental audit pilot program modifications; pollution control agency separate annual pollution report	05/23/01	05/25/01	
186	1892*	1545	Discrimination provisions clarification	05/23/01	05/25/01	
185	1487*	1346	Recreation and game and fish provisions modifications	05/23/01	05/24/01	
184	2036*	1685	Goodhue county auditor-treasurer appointment	05/23/01	05/24/01	
183	2107*	1329	Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified	05/23/01	05/25/01	
182	1071	1082*	State park land additions, deletions and administration and boathouse lot lease modifications	05/23/01	05/24/01	
181	1941*	1899	Job skills partnership program provisions clarification	05/23/01	05/25/01	
180	1340*	908	Wright county recorder appointment permitted	05/23/01	05/24/01	
179	667	555*	State agencies rulemaking procedures modifications	05/23/01	05/25/01	
178	1397	1394*	Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided	05/23/01	05/25/01	
177	1276	1968*	Crane operators certification study	05/23/01	05/25/01	
176	1218	1154*	Metropolitan radio board expiration date extension	05/23/01	05/25/01	
175	655*	1277	Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program Law	05/23/01	05/25/01	
174	1507*	1572	Municipal planning legal nonconforming land uses treatment clarification	05/23/01	05/24/01	
173	707*	863	Carisoprodol controlled substance classification effective date modification	05/23/01	05/25/01	

172	1153*	1529	Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided	05/23/01		05/25/01
171	1407*	1415	Public health collaboration plans provisions modification; rural hospital programs eligibility expansion; funeral goods and services regulation; professional boxing regulation repeal	05/21/01	05/24/01	
170	1155*	1081	Health plan companies network shadow contracting regulation provisions modifications	05/21/01	05/24/01	
169	634*	648	Payment of claims against the state; Murray county property taxes reimbursement authority; Willis Lake wildlife management lake designation	05/21/01	05/24/01	
168	1997	1324*	Private detectives and protective agents weapons and firearms use training rules requirements modification	05/21/01	05/24/01	
167	883	846*	Criminal justice data communications network use authority expansion	05/21/01	05/24/01	
166	514	1124*	Continued insurance coverage provided for spouses of specified education retirees	05/21/01	05/24/01	
165	870	795*	Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required	05/21/01	05/24/01	
164	873*	1126	Tax-forfeited land conveyances, sales, exchanges and easements	05/21/01	05/24/01	
163	440	321*	Guardians or conservators criminal background studies requirements; human services department background study systems and records	05/21/01	05/24/01	
162	1938	1680*	Administration department provisions modified	05/21/01	05/24/01	
161	1869	1263*	Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other multimember entities changed	05/21/01	05/24/01	
160	1612	1434*	Water permit provisions modifications	05/21/01	05/24/01	
			Civil actions against the			

159	1655	1614*	state authorized under the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act	05/18/01	05/22/01
158	1697	1944*	Crime of nonsupport of spouse or child clarification and modification	05/18/01	05/22/01
157	273	172*	Juvenile petty offense definition exclusions and dispositions modification	05/18/01	05/22/01
156	256	174*	Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting carrots authorized	05/18/01	05/22/01
155	992	1552*	Negligent fire resulting in injury or property damage definition modified	05/17/01	05/21/01
154	1886	1721*	Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment	05/17/01	05/21/01
153	1940	1472*	Capital access economic development program provisions modified	05/17/01	05/21/01
152	1925	1369*	Battered women shelter facilities per diem payment program implementation and administration rules	05/17/01	05/21/01
151	1821	1666*	Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for sale of horse trailers and recreational vehicles	05/17/01	05/21/01
150	872	494*	St. Louis county special purchasing laws repealed	05/17/01	05/21/01
149	1105	960*	Iron range resources and rehabilitation commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property	05/17/01	05/21/01
148	1311	1485*	Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established	05/17/01	05/21/01
147	1367*	1306	Owner-occupied residential housing program authorized to use rental energy revolving loan program funds	05/17/01	05/21/01
146	1828*	1486	Wetlands classification and replacement provisions modifications	05/17/01	05/21/01
145	604	564*	Employee assistance records access and maintenance requirements	05/17/01	05/21/01
144	704*	719	Criminal offenders rehabilitation law exception for emergency medical services personnel	05/17/01	05/21/01

143	486*	682	Newspaper paid political advertisement disclaimers required to be legible	05/17/01	05/21/01
142	2130	1964*	Life and health insurance guaranty association regulation provisions modifications	05/17/01	05/21/01
141	2253	2033*	Insurance agents minimum continuing education requirements modification	05/17/01	05/21/01
140	1589	1301*	Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects	05/17/01	05/21/01
139	2203	2142*	County highways or town roads property condemnation judicial review	05/17/01	05/21/01
138	1819	1430*	Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed, and exchange of information provided for investigations of counselors	05/17/01	5/21/01
137	322	414*	Minnesota utilization review act provisions modified	05/17/01	05/21/01
136	1516	1583*	Child neglect definition modification for minors maltreatment reporting purposes	05/17/01	05/21/01
135	570	1043*	Peace officer standards and training board license denial, suspension or revocation authority expansion	05/17/01	05/21/01
134	2207	2022*	Child support payments crediting and enforcement remedies implementation timing requirements	05/17/01	05/21/01
133	977	1033*	Minnesota state colleges and universities technical and community college employee unions merged	05/17/01	05/21/01
132	610	974*	Local public officers contracts financial interest prohibition exceptions	05/17/01	05/21/01
131	1615	1610*	Insurance regulation provided for liquidations and investments, structured settlement agreements and financial statements	05/17/01	05/21/01
130	1174	694*	Propane education and research council established	05/17/01	05/21/01
129	1007	970*	Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided	05/17/01	05/21/01

128	1734	1659*	Animal feedlot permit conditions and additional level inventory	05/16/01	05/18/01	
127	783*	1244	Deadly force definition modified to exclude use of less lethal munitions used by peace officers	05/16/01	05/18/01	
126	2074	2031*	Public works contracts regulated	05/16/01		05/18/01
125	1023	1222*	Merchant marine and women airforce service pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on capitol grounds	05/16/01	05/18/01	
124	694	1264*	No-fault auto insurance sale of income loss benefits coverage to senior citizens regulated	05/16/01	05/18/01	
123	2225	2046*	Workers compensation provisions modifications	05/16/01	05/18/01	
122	1817	1821*	Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way	05/16/01		05/18/01
121	976	359*	Chiropractors licensing and regulation provisions modification and clarification	05/16/01	05/18/01	
120	1081	560*	Health care review organizations provisions modifications	05/14/01	05/17/01	
119	887	910*	Residential roadway definition modification for traffic regulations purposes	05/14/01	05/17/01	
118	1832	2361*	Omnibus health, human services and corrections appropriations	05/15/01		05/15/01
117	1955	1826*	Insurance producers licensing and regulation	05/14/01	05/17/01	
116	1827	1613*	Pollution control agency authority to expedite permits clarified	05/14/01	05/17/01	
115	1778	1269*	Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the state Capitol provided	05/14/01	05/17/01	
114	1526	1528*	Edina authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles (ATVs)	05/14/01		05/17/01
113	2161	2005*	State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona county	05/14/01	05/17/01	
112	1596*	1599	Metropolitan area taxis included as special transportation service providers	05/14/01	05/17/01	
			Veterans homes resident			

111	1248*	1774	deposit accounts modified	05/14/01	05/17/01
110	926*	1001	Minnesota uniform health care identification card standards modifications	05/14/01	05/17/01
109	661	859*	Accountancy act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed	05/14/01	05/17/01
108	1145	333*	Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized	05/14/01	05/17/01
107	935	824*	Good samaritan law emergency care liability immunity clarification	05/14/01	05/17/01
106	1537	780*	State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill	05/14/01	05/17/01
105	1290	510*	County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances	05/14/01	05/17/01
104	481	520*	Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7	05/11/01	05/15/01
103	1549	1772*	C. Elmer Anderson memorial highway outdoor advertising restriction	05/11/01	05/15/01
102	1392	1258*	Minnesota investment fund loan or grant authority expansion	05/11/01	05/15/01
101	1764	2049*	Coldwater Springs Camp area historical preservation ensured	05/11/01	05/15/01
100	724	1064*	State professional service contract procedures specified	05/11/01	05/15/01
99	1481	1164*	Landowner definition modified for participation in the Reinvest in Minnesota program	05/11/01	05/15/01
98	1172	1056*	School bus drivers licenses validity verification requirement	05/11/01	05/15/01
97	2181	2225*	School buses operation without drivers license endorsement; school buses operation by licensed child care providers	05/11/01	05/15/01
96	1069	986*	Lawful gambling regulation provisions modifications	05/10/01	05/14/01
95	1920	1835*	Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days	05/10/01	05/14/01
94	1657	1404*	Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees	05/10/01	05/14/01

93	2110	1441*	Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided to attendees at a national or international conference or event	05/10/01	05/14/01
92	1021	1008*	Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating	05/10/01	05/14/01
91	1830	2006*	Motor vehicle accident data public availability	05/08/01	05/10/01
90	1067	923*	Social work licensure examination requirement exception provided for certain persons who are refugees or immigrants	05/08/01	05/10/01
89	254	930*	Motor vehicle carriers obsolete rules repeal	05/08/01	05/10/01
88	1687	1206*	Indian affairs council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji	05/08/01	05/10/01
87	1465	1432*	Police civil service periodic examinations	05/08/01	05/10/01
86	1410	849*	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in state insurance, retirement, and other plans that apply to state employees	05/08/01	05/10/01
85	406	511*	State agricultural society provisions modifications	05/08/01	05/10/01
84	1394	1706*	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public elementary and secondary school students	05/08/01	05/10/01
83	1085	1155*	Recreational equipment and motor homes maximum highway width or length limits	05/08/01	05/10/01
82	1409	1090*	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9	05/08/01	05/10/01
81	390	110*	Prairieland exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized	05/08/01	05/10/01
80	782	773*	DWI offenders electronic alcohol monitoring study	05/08/01	05/10/01
79	2070	1932*	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed	05/08/01	05/10/01
78	2396	1999*	Repeals obsolete judicial system references	05/08/01	05/10/01
77	1872	1611*	Vocational rehabilitation facilities and programs provisions modifications	05/08/01	05/10/01

76	489*	311	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds	05/03/01	05/07/01
75	1247*	1506	Veterans home board administration of planned giving donations provided	05/02/01	05/04/01
74	1748*	2097	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances; rural emergency medical technician-paramedic training programs accreditation requirement exemption	05/02/01	05/04/01
73	953*	1265	Child abuse definition expansion	05/02/01	05/04/01
72	933*	983	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements	05/02/01	05/04/01
71	865*	1266	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances	05/02/01	05/04/01
70	1681*	1622	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension	04/30/01	05/02/01
69	1522*	1421	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified	04/30/01	05/02/01
68	1192*	1979	Teachers temporary limited licenses and personnel variances application acceptance and issuance timelines	04/30/01	05/02/01
67	1188*	1045	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated	04/30/01	05/02/01
66	1151*	1187	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists	04/30/01	05/02/01
65	967*	876	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events	04/30/01	05/02/01
64	1889*	1831	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated	04/27/01	04/30/01
63	1219*	1617	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement elimination	04/27/01	04/30/01
62	779*	823	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification	04/27/01	04/30/01
61	525*	1604	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications	04/27/01	04/30/01
60	1383*	1598	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed	04/27/01	04/30/01
59	995*	1214	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications	04/27/01	04/30/01

58	550*	954	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended	04/26/01		04/30/01
57	285*	339	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation	04/26/01	04/30/01	
56	1084*	1066	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill	04/26/01	04/30/01	
55	1159*	857	Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and Gillette children's hospital addition prior funding modifications	04/26/01	04/30/01	
54	149*	505	Regulates sale and labeling of Halaal food, meat or poultry products	04/26/01	04/30/01	
53	1637*	1790	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license	04/26/01	04/30/01	
52	1467	1419*	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification	04/23/01	04/26/01	
51	1260*	1332	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization	04/23/01	04/26/01	
50	239*	170	Real estate provisions modifications	04/23/01	04/26/01	
49	1160*	1127	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified	04/23/01	04/26/01	
48	323*	914	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal	04/23/01	04/26/01	
47	274*	70	Mercury thermometer sales restricted	04/23/01	04/26/01	
46	253	249*	Repeals obsolete health and human rules	04/23/01	04/26/01	
45	2119*	1915	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified	04/23/01	04/24/01	
44	867*	646	Suburban Hennepin regional park district provisions modification and clarification	04/23/01	04/24/01	
43	1404	1709*	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement	04/23/01	04/24/01	
42	1634	1460*	Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form and participate in professional firms	04/20/01	04/24/01	
41	1747	1780*	Itasca county chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended	04/20/01	04/24/01	

40	828	741*	Hennepin county employees granted disaster volunteer leave	04/20/01	04/24/01
39	387	142*	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans	04/20/01	04/24/01
38	949*	771	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities	04/20/01	04/24/01
37	125*	104	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country	04/20/01	04/24/01
36	275*	210	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition	04/20/01	04/24/01
35	424	456*	Mental retardation and related conditions waiver recipients authorized access to respite care	04/20/01	04/24/01
34	453	319*	Discharge of judgements against bankruptcy debtors regulated	04/20/01	04/24/01
33	1455	1435*	Designer selection board provisions modified	04/20/01	04/24/01
32	501	283*	Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation	04/20/01	04/24/01
31	116	274*	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed, and athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal after two years	04/20/01	04/24/01
30	47*	39	Requires maintenance of closed iron mines, and extends unemployment benefits to certain laid off LTV employees	04/11/01	04/11/01
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure	04/11/01	04/13/01
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests	04/11/01	04/13/01
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system	04/11/01	04/13/01
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints	04/11/01	04/13/01
			Includes certain crimes against children as		

25	57*	27	disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses	04/11/01	04/13/01
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations	04/11/01	04/13/01
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules	04/09/01	04/11/01
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests	04/09/01	04/11/01
21	394	327*	Repeals a provision about certain male animals or breachy cattle	04/09/01	04/11/01
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals	04/09/01	04/11/01
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel	04/09/01	04/11/01
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia	04/09/01	04/11/01
17	416	400*	Allow the town of Hokah to vacate a town road	04/05/01	04/09/01
16	556*	756	Authorizes federal law enforcement officers power of arrest in MN under certain circumstances	04/05/01	04/09/01
15	243	346*	Modifies the uniform principal and income act	04/04/01	04/06/01
14	368	63*	Designates trunk highway 55 in Stearns County as Old St. Anne's Pass	04/04/01	04/06/01
13	1016	509*	Authorizes cities and counties to make and accept payments with credit cards and electronic funds transfers	04/04/01	04/06/01
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority	03/27/01	03/29/01
11	487	433*	Increases the amount for which a township may contract for health, social, and recreational services	03/20/01	03/21/01
10	357	289*	Modifies licensing requirements for alcohol and drug counselors	03/14/01	03/16/01
9	393*	155	Allowing employees of Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul equal competition for vacant county jobs in city-county departments	03/14/01	03/16/01
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control	03/14/01	03/16/01
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill	03/12/01	03/15/01
			Minnesota agricultural education leadership council		

6	106*	47	permanent or temporary replacement members authorized for specified ex officio seats	03/06/01	03/08/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases	02/28/01	03/02/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances	02/26/01	02/28/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal	02/14/01	02/15/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized	02/01/01	02/02/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules	01/12/01	01/16/01	
	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of photograph by Eric Enstrom	04/23/01	04/26/01	
	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products	03/12/01	03/15/01	
	670	647*	Resolution urging Congress to carry through their pledge to fund 40% of special education costs	04/04/01	04/06/01	
	2430	2328*	Resolution for railroad employees unemployment and sickness benefits eligibility	05/25/01	filed without signature	
	208*	551	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways	05/14/01	05/17/01	

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution	House File	Senate File	Description	Presented	Signed
5	2430	2328*	Resolution for railroad employees unemployment and sickness benefits eligibility	05/25/01	Filed without signature
4	208*	551	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways	05/14/01	05/17/01
3	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of photograph by Eric Enstrom	04/23/01	04/26/01
2	670	647*	Resolution urging Congress to carry through their pledge of funding 40% of special	04/04/01	04/06/01

			education costs		
1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products	03/12/01	03/15/01

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Testimony

Audio



At times, I'm asked to testify before government bodies on varied topics. Below are links to the text of these testimonies.

U.S. House subcommittee on trade
Radisson South, Bloomington
May 14, 2001

U.S. Senate Finance Committee, Subcommittee on International Trade on Free Trade
October 5, 2000

U.S. House,Ways and Means Committee On Normal Trading Relations for China
March 30, 2000

Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee Hearing
February 2, 2000

Testimony to U.S. Congression on Milk Pricing
June 24, 1999

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MINNESOTA'S FEDERAL PRIORITIES 2·0·0·1

Federal Priorities

Minnesota's Federal Priorities 2001 is the national component of my *Big Plan*, and represents a listing of important federal issues from the agencies that make up the Ventura Administration. Each commissioner or department head compiles these annual lists in conjunction with the Minnesota's Washington Office to serve as the focal point of their federal agenda for the coming year. Each issue can represent a policy position, funding request, a rule-making or statutory change, or a legislative solution proposed to the U.S. Congress.

- Administration
- Agriculture
- Children, Families & Learning
- Commerce
- Corrections
- Economic Security
- Health
- Housing Finance
- Human Services
- Iron Range Resources and Rehabiliation Board
- Labor & Industry
- Metropolitan Council
- Military Affairs
- Minnesota Planning
- Natural Resources
- Pollution Control
- Public Safety
- Revenue
- Trade & Economic Development
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs

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Initiatives



We are tackling some big issues in the Ventura Administration. There are some things I want to take the lead on and help get a good discussion started - these are my initiatives.

Below you can click on a topic that interests you and read more about it.

- **Tax Reform**
- **Telecommunications Reform**
- **Prevention - Health**
- **Workforce Development**
- **Critical Technology - CriMNet**
- **2002-03 Budget**
- **Campaign Finance Reform**
- **Single Session Legislature**

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Press Releases

Audio

Press releases advise the media of policy announcements and activities that I am involved in.

These releases are emailed and faxed statewide to radio, TV and print media. They are also handed out to the press corps in the Capitol.



RECENT RELEASES

December 20, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA TO MAKE GOOD ON COMMITMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

December 4, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA STATEMENT ON BUDGET FORECAST

November 25, 2002

VENTURA ADMINISTRATION GRADES ITSELF
"The Big Accounting" takes detailed look at what worked and what didn't

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Live Music the First Three Thursdays in December

November 8, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JACK ULDRICH ACTING DIRECTOR OF MINNESOTA PLANNING

October 28, 2002

[U.S. FLAGS TO BE FLOWN HALF-STAFF THROUGH TUESDAY TO HONOR SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE]

October 25, 2002

[STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA]

[SENATOR WELLSTONE HONORED WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF]

[SATURDAY'S HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE AT GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE DELAYED]

October 10, 2002

[GOVERNOR APPOINTS BELL TO BOARD OF REGENTS]

[STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA ON THE OCTOBER ECONOMIC UPDATE]

October 1, 2002

[STATE TO HONOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEPUTY WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF]

[GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER]

[GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING REVENUE COMMISSIONER]

September 12, 2002

[GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION SEPT. 19]

September 9, 2002

[GOVERNOR SEEKS APOLOGY FROM BUSH ADMINISTRATION]

[STATE TO OBSERVE PATRIOT DAY WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF]

September 6, 2002

[GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES $500,000 FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT TO CITY OF ROSEAU]

August 29, 2002

[GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY TO LEAD 9/11 MEMORIAL]

August 28, 2002

GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR HOST ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARDS

August 26, 2002

MEXICO MOVING TOWARD OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN MINNESOTA

August 23, 2002

GOVERNOR TO MEET WITH MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING FINANCE COMMISSIONER

August 23, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

August 15, 2002

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE RESUMES PUBLIC TOURS AND STATE EVENTS

August 14, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

August 5, 2002

GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA TO TRAVEL TO CUBA

August 2, 2002

STATE TO HONOR MINNEAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

LT. GOVERNOR & STATE PATROL CHIEF HOST PROJECT HOMESAFE
Gun Safety Project to Distribute 30,000 Free Gunlocks to 23 Minnesota Cities

July 31, 2002

FIRST LADY THANKS CITIZENS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR PARTICIPATION IN "SAVE THE ANIMALS" FOOD DRIVE

July 9, 2002

STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR VENTURA'S HEALTH

July 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SENDS GUARD TO HELP WITH WILDFIRE

June 28, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

June 28, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT ROSEAU AND VIEW FLOOD DAMAGE

June 27, 2002

GOVERNOR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP FLOOD STRICKEN AREAS

June 24, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS REQUEST FOR DISASTER DECLARATION

June 20, 2002

GOVERNOR TO TOUR FLOOD DAMAGE IN ROSEAU

June 13, 2002

PRESIDENT APPROVES GOVERNOR VENTURA'S REQUEST FOR FEDERAL DISASTER AID

June 13, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER AID
LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH

June 12, 2002

GOVERNOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY
LT. GOVERNOR TOURS FLOODED AREAS

June 11, 2002

LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR FLOOD ASSISTANCE TO NINE ADDITIONAL COUNTIES

June 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANSON AND MEYER TO SUPREME COURT,WRIGHT TO COURT OF APPEALS

STATE RECEIVES $16 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANT MONEY TO ENHANCE BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE CAPABILITY

June 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD

May 31, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS JOHNSON TO PUC

GOVERNOR SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS OF COLOR

May 22, 2002

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNOR: BONDING BILL

GOVERNOR'S VETO LETTER REGARDING BONDING

ITEMS VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE BONDING BILL

GOVERNOR SIGNS STADIUM, ANTI-TERRORISM, INTERNET PRIVACY AND 10 OTHER BILLS; VETOES PLEDGE BILL

PLEDGE VETO LETTER

May 21, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS EIGHT BILLS, INCLUDING JOBS BILL

GOVERNOR TO CONGRATULATE LT. GOVERNOR ON SCHOOL VISITS

May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

May 18, 2002

BILLS VETOED, SIGNED AND ALLOWED INTO LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE

2498 LETTER

3270 LETTER

1755 LETTER

May 17, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES EGAN TO MET COUNCIL

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

May 16, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA URGES MORE MINNESOTA

COMPANIES TO EXPLORE THE WORLD

May 15, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS FOUR BILLS, VETOES ONE

May 13, 2002

MAKE IT SIX YEARS IN A ROW: MINNESOTA IS NATION'S 'MOST LIVABLE STATE'

May 10, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS GYPSY MOTH BILL

May 9, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSIONER

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

May 8, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

May 3, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

May 1, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SEVEN BILLS

April 30, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

April 29, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS, INCLUDING FIREWORKS DEFINITION

April 24, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

April 19, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS, INCLUDING PHOSPHORUS REGULATION

April 17, 2002
GOVERNOR WASHINGTON D.C. ITINERARY

April 17, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS FOUR BILLS

April 16, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

April 12, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

April 10, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

April 8, 2002
MAINE'S GOVERNOR TO MODEL GOPHER JERSEY

GOVERNOR TO CONDUCT RADIO INTERVIEWS THIS WEEK (LIST IN RELEASE)

GOVERNOR SIGNS 11 BILLS

GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE HIGH SCHOOL RECORD LABEL, BROADCAST RADIO SHOW FROM MUSICTECH COLLEGE

April 5, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS FIVE BILLS

April 4, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

April 1, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS FIVE BILLS, VETOES ONE

March 27, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS SEVEN BILLS, VETOES ONE

March 26, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS 17 BILLS, VETOES AUTO GLASS BILL

March 25, 2002
GOVERNOR SIGNS 14 BILLS

March 22, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS 14 BILLS, INCLUDING 'GRACE' PHOTO BILL

March 21, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

March 16, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

March 15, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS ONE BILL, LETS BIODIESEL PASS INTO LAW

March 8, 2002

GOVERNOR VISITS MONTEVIDEO NATIONAL GUARD

March 7, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

March 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS ONE BILL

February 28, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

February 26, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY FRIDAY

February 24, 2002

GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT ON SENATOR WELLSTONE'S ILLNESS

February 14, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES HIRING RESTRICTION

February 12, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT VA MEDICAL CENTER

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SCALED-BACK MISSION TO CHINA

February 11, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT MARSHALL, ST. JAMES

February 6, 2002

WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT MERGER PLANS--NEWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

February 4, 2002

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL LUTHER HOUSE SEAT

STATE TO HONOR REPRESENTATIVE LUTHER WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

February 1, 2002

CITIZEN LIAISON PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR

STATE TO HONOR FOUR CHAPLAINS WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

January 24, 2002

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES BIG PLAN RESULTS WEB SITES

January 18, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA TO PROMOTE MINNESOTA TOURISM AT WORLD'S LARGEST TRAVEL SHOW IN BERLIN

January 16, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF ADMIN LAUNCHES RESIDENCE WEB SITE

January 9, 2002

GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE BUDGET PLAN

January 2, 2002

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SOLON, KELLY SEATS

December 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ROE TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

December 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS RANCOURT TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

December 27, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

December 21, 2001

GOVERNOR TO GIVE STATE OF THE STATE DIRECTLY TO MINNESOTANS

December 14, 2001

GOVERNOR TO CALL SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL KELLY SENATE SEAT

December 3, 2001

GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS ANNOUNCE JOINT TASK FORCE ON HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

November 30, 2001

GOVERNOR TO TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS

November 21, 2001

GOVERNOR, COMMISSIONERS RELEASE OVERVIEW OF ANTI-TERRORISM AGENDA

November 16, 2001

STATEMENT ON MEETING WITH CARL POHLAD

November 15, 2001

GOVERNOR TO TOUR, BROADCAST RADIO SHOW AT NEW VISIONS CHARTER SCHOOL

November 13, 2001

GOVERNOR PLACES CHINA MISSION BACK ON TRACK

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES STADIUM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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Speeches *Audio*



A lot of the time I like to speak "off the cuff," but there are occasions when I need to make a formal speech.

When I do that, my staff puts the speech on this page.

Usually I add a few thoughts to my formal speeches that might not show up in the written text, but you can read these speeches to get a pretty good idea of what I was talking about.

2001-02 Speeches

October 16, 2002

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN RESERVATION

September 27, 2002

UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA

NATIONAL PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION

June 26, 2002

OPENING REMARKS TO NATIONAL ELECTRONICS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE MEETING

June 24, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANSON AND MEYER TO SUPREME COURT, WRIGHT TO COURT OF APPEALS

June 6, 2002

GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

April 23, 2002

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES METRO NORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 10, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES STADIUM FINANCING PLAN

March 15, 2002

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES ST. PAUL ROTARY

March 12, 2002

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 28, 2002

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET BILL VETO MESSAGE

GOVERNOR'S VETO LETTER TO LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

February 25, 2002

MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2002

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES VFW LUNCHEON IN ST. JAMES

February 14, 2002

MOVING MINNESOTA TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

February 11, 2002

RESPONSE TO HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET PROPOSALS

February 8, 2002

WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

February 6, 2002

ENERGY ADDRESS

February 4, 2002

EMS CONFERENCE IN DULUTH

February 1, 2002

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

January 31, 2002

DOMESTIC SECURITY PROPOSAL

January 31, 2002

MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 29, 2002

CAPITAL BONDING MESSAGE

January 14, 2002

BUDGET SHORTFALL MESSAGE

January 10, 2002

STATE OF THE STATE

January 3, 2002

STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS--MET COUNCIL EVENT

December 12, 2001

TESTIMONY TO U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE

December 6, 2001

MINNESOTA CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 4, 2001

MINNESOTA'S PREPAREDNESS FOR THE WAR ON TERRORISM

November 13, 2001

HEALTH DISPARITIES CONFERENCE

October 16, 2001

VENTURE FINANCE CONFERENCE

October 4, 2001

REVENUE ESTIMATION AND TAX RESEARCH CONFERENCE

September 24, 2001

DULUTH ROTARY

September 20, 2001

MINNESOTA REMEMBERS: A MEMORIAL FROM THE HEARTLAND

September 16, 2001

REMARKS AFTER TERRORIST ATTACK

September 11, 2001

NEW ULM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 6, 2001

MIDWEST STATES ASSOCIATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS SALES TAX REBATE NEWS CONFERENCE

August 20, 2001

RURAL SUMMIT IN DULUTH

July 25, 2001

TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE

July 12, 2001

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH TO TORONTO TOURISM EVENT GOVERNOR ADDRESSES COMDEX CONVENTION IN TORONTO

July 11, 2001

TAX BILL SIGNING AT HAROLD E. STASSEN REVENUE BUILDING

June 30, 2001

MINNESOTA TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

June 28, 2001

MENTORING BREAKFAST AT THE RESIDENCE

June 27, 2001

MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

June 21, 2001

FUEL ETHANOL WORKSHOP AND TRADE SHOW

June 20, 2001

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

June 19, 2001

FOREST SUMMIT IN GRAND RAPIDS

May 30, 2001

GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT ON LATEST TAX AND SCHOOL FINANCE PROPOSAL

May 25, 2001

GOVERNOR KICKS OFF HOLIDAY WEEKEND WITH SAFE DRIVING MESSAGE

May 23, 2001

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES *MINNESOTA MEETING*

May 17, 2001

GOVERNOR SPEAKS DURING NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL WEEK

May 16, 2001

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO CANADA

WORLD TRADE WEEK

May 8, 2001

SMART GROWTH WORKSHOP

May 3, 2001

MINNESOTA TOUR EXPO

May 2, 2001

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES THE ST. PAUL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FINNISH GLOBAL SOFTWARE PROGRAM

April 26, 2001

GOVERNOR'S EARTH DAY REMARKS

April 23, 2001

WINONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REMARKS

April 19, 2001

MOORHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REMARKS

April 12, 2001

WILLMAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REMARKS

April 5, 2001

KMSP-TV EDUCATION FORUM

March 21, 2001

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

March 20, 2001

MINNESOTA BUSINESS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

March 14, 2001

METRO NORTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 12, 2001

HAROLD STASSEN MEMORIAL SERVICE

March 9, 2001

GROWING UP HOMELESS CONFERENCE

March 8, 2001

STREAMLINED SALES TAX PROPOSAL

March 7, 2001

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PROPOSAL

March 6, 2001

CHINA TRADE MISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

March 2, 2001

FEBRUARY REVENUE FORECAST

February 28, 2001

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

February 26, 2001

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

LAND O'LAKES ANNUAL MEETING

February 21, 2001

WORKING TOGETHER CONFERENCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 13, 2001

SEAT BELT LEGISLATION, REGIONS HOSPITAL

February 7, 2001

TRIBAL LEADERS MEETING

February 5, 2001

EARL BROWN HERITAGE CENTER

February 2, 2001

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - DULUTH BUDGET MESSAGE

January 24, 2001

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE 2002-03 BIENNIUM

January 23, 2001

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

January 18, 2001

HIAWATHA LRT GROUNDBREAKING

January 17, 2001

HUMPHREY INSTITUTE

January 16, 2001

STATE OF THE STATE

January 4, 2001

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

130 State Capitol * 75 Constitution Avenue * Saint Paul, MN 55155
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Biography

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I was elected the 38th governor of Minnesota on November 3, 1998, the first-ever Reform Party candidate to win statewide office. I defeated Attorney General Hubert H. (Skip) Humphrey III and St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman in a victory nobody predicted.

With my running mate Mae Schunk, an educator of 37 years, the Ventura-Schunk ticket received the support of thousands of new voters across the state and sparked a renewed interest in making government work better. And we did it all while spending less than $400,000.

I was born James Janos on July 15, 1951 to Sgt. George Janos, a steamfitter for the City of Minneapolis, and First Lt. Bernice Janos, a nurse anesthetist. I grew up in the south Minneapolis Longfellow neighborhood, attended Cooper Elementary School, Sanford Junior High and graduated from Roosevelt Senior High School in 1969.

Immediately after high school, I joined the Navy and was trained as a SEAL (Sea, Air, Land). I served in the Navy for six years.

After my honorable discharge from the Navy in 1973, I went to North Hennepin Community College on the GI bill.

For 11 years, I was a professional wrestler. In 1984, I retired from wrestling and became an actor, appearing in several films including *Predator* with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In 1990, the people who run Brooklyn Park, Minnesota were talking about destroying some important wetland, so I decided to run for mayor of the state's sixth largest city. I won, and served as mayor until 1995, with crime reduction being one of my major issues.

After that, I became a radio talk show host at KSTP-AM and KFAN-AM in the Twin Cities

In 1998 while doing my radio show, I met with Dean Barkley, an independent maverick, and decided to run for governor as a member of the Reform Party.

Lo and behold I won.

In February 2000, I disassociated myself from the national Reform Party and joined the Independence Party of Minnesota. That's what our party was originally called, before it affiliated with the Reform Party.

My wife Terry and I have been married 27 years. Terry operates a riding school at our Maple Grove horse farm. We have two children: Tyrel, born in 1979, and Jade, born in 1983.

I am a member of the *Make a Wish of Minnesota* Board of Advisors and was a volunteer football coach at Champlin Park High School for several years. I am also a long-time member of the Screen Actors Guild, and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

Media outlets interested in requesting an interview with Governor Ventura should contact the Governor's Communications Office at 651-296-0058. Media interested in a copy of the governor's official portrait should click here.

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Lunch with the Governor *Audio*



Lunch with the Governor is my weekly radio show that broadcasts all over Minnesota.

Before becoming governor I was a radio host. After I took office we sat down with citizens and asked them for feedback, and they told me they wanted a chance to have direct access to me. So we came up with the radio show, and each Friday morning at 11, I take calls from listeners who are free to bring up any topic they want. Nothing is "off limits" on *Lunch with the Governor,* and its a great way to stay in touch with regular folks throughout the state.

Affiliates

WCCO-AM	Minneapolis-St. Paul (The Flagship)
KCNN-AM	Grand Forks
KDAL-AM	Duluth
KFGO-AM	Fargo-Moorhead
KKAQ-AM	Thief River Falls
KKOJ-AM	Jackson
KLTF-AM	Little Falls
KNSI-AM	St. Cloud
KNUJ-AM	New Ulm
KRBT-AM	Eveleth
KROC-AM	Rochester
KSDM-AM	International Falls
KWOA-AM	Worthington
KYMN-AM	Northfield
KDMA-AM	Montevideo
KWLM-AM	Willmar



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Events *Audio*



And what am I doing here? I took time out of my town walk of Pine Island to give a resident a trim. Read the story!

The events page is where we show you some of the unusual things I do.

If I tour the state or another country, send Minnesota troops on their way, write a holiday poem or even take a morning shift on the radio, you'll find it here.

It's just another way I can keep constituents posted on exactly what their governor is doing.

RECENT EVENTS

November 26, 2002
GOVERNOR VENTURA WELCOMES BROOMBALL CHAMPS

November 6, 2002
GOVERNOR VENTURA WELCOMES GOVERNOR-ELECT PAWLENTY

GOVERNOR GREETS DELEGATION FROM USS MPLS-ST. PAUL
September 23, 2002

GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES ONE MILLIONTH E-FILERS
April 18, 2002

READ ACROSS AMERICA--CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY
March 1, 2002

TOUR 2001: APPLETON TO NEW ULM
September 6-7, 2001

GOVERNOR THANKS REVENUE EMPLOYEES FOR HARD WORK

July 2, 2001

GOVERNOR HELPS LAUNCH BOOSTER SEAT CAMPAIGN

June 28, 2001

GOVERNOR ATTENDS JONNY LANG BACHELOR PARTY

May 21, 2001

GOVERNOR SPEAKS AT NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL WEEK SERVICE

May 16, 2001

2001 GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER- Friday or Saturday

May 11 & 12, 2001

GOVERNOR MEETS GEORGE McGOVERN

May 7, 2001

GOVERNOR SENDS STEINBRENNER LETTER OF APOLOGY

May 4, 2001

LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK VISITS TORNADO DAMAGE IN GLENVILLE

May 2, 2001

WHEN HARRY (BELAFONTE) MET JESSE (VENTURA)

April 17, 2001

GOVERNOR VISITS CITIES ALONG THE MINNESOTA AND RED RIVERS

April 12-13, 2001

GOVERNOR MEETS WITH HARMON KILLEBREW

April 10, 2001

GOVERNOR SHOWS OFF GIFT OF JACKAL ART

March 30, 2001

GOVERNOR MEETS MARYLAND BASKETBALL COACH GARY WILLIAMS

March 29, 2001

GOVERNOR VISITS ROCHESTER AND PINE ISLAND

March 9, 2001

TECHNOLOGY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 22, 2001

GOVERNOR VISITS ST. PETER, TALKS BUDGET WITH CITIZENS

February 15-16, 2001

WEEKLY RADIO SHOW FROM THE GUTHRIE

February 9, 2001

GOVERNOR TAKES MORNING SHIFT AT WLOL

February 7, 2001

GOVERNOR VISITS WORTHINGTON

January 25, 2001

GOVERNOR SAYS FAREWELL AS MINNESOTA SOLDIERS HEAD FOR PERSIAN GULF

January 19, 2001

STATE SENATOR BOB LESSARD JOINS INDEPENDENCE PARTY OF MINNESOTA

January 3, 2001

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Appointments

Here's another thing that most people don't know that I am responsible for - appointments to state boards and commissions.

Each month, a listing of vacancies, including the appointing authorities for the vacancies is posted. For information on the application process and current board and commission openings, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's Web site.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

December 23, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO URBAN INITIATIVE BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE COUNCIL

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

December 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO RACING COMMISSION

December 13, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

December 9, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

December 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CORRIE TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

December 2, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS PRICE TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MARK TO FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

November 21, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

November 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HOLMSTOEN TO STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BENSON TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

November 8, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS GAVIN TO PUC

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

November 7, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS EIGHT TO COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

November 6, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

October 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHERER TO SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

October 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS KAHN TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ANDERSON TO STATE ARTS BOARD

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

October 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ROSEN TO COMMISSION SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF INVENTION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CARTER TO RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 13, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS WERNICK TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

September 5, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DURENBERGER AND LANGSETH TO COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO MINERAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

September 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HUNDSHAMER AND SHAPIRO TO BOARD OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION PRACTICE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON TO VETERANS HOMES BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHMIDT TO BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

August 28, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

August 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO CHICANO/LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL

August 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DIXON TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS RANUM TO HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS STINE TO FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

August 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MPCA BOARD

August 1, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

July 26, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS PETERSON TO STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD

July 25, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS McCOY TO BOARD OF DENTISTRY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS LATTS TO BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS CAVANAUGH AND ELLEFSON TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANNON TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

July 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CASTRO TO JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

July 3, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES COUNCIL

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

July 1, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

June 10, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

June 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANSON AND MEYER TO SUPREME COURT, WRIGHT TO COURT OF APPEALS

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL

DISTRICT VACANCY

June 3, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

May 31, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS JOHNSON TO PUC

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT BENCH

GOVERNOR SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS OF COLOR

May 30, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT FINALISTS

May 23, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HALSEY TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

May 17, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES EGAN TO MET COUNCIL

May 13, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR MET COUNCIL

May 9, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSIONER

May 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO ZOO BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO EMS REGULATORY BOARD

May 2, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT APPLICATION PROCESS

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NATALIE HUDSON TO COURT OF APPEALS

April 30, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

April 24, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

April 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

April 19, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS FINALISTS

April 11, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

April 9, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO TO MERIT SYSTEM COUNCIL

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS FIVE TO REHABILITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

April 3, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO COMMISSION SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

April 2, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PERA BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

April 1, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL VACANCY ANNOUNCED

March 28, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO MAEF

March 27, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS BOMIER TO EQB

March 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BUELTEL TO THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

March 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS STOFFERAHN TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

March 18, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO BOARD ON AGING

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO STATE ARTS BOARD

March 15, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO VETERANS HOMES BOARD

March 13, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MINGE TO COURT OF APPEALS

March 12, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

March 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS REILING TO CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS SCHWARTZ TO BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS HETLAND TO OSHA REVIEW BOARD

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS AXELROD TO PETROFUND BOARD

March 8, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

March 7, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

March 6, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

March 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

March 1, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

February 25, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

February 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

February 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWELVE TO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON CHIEF JUDGE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

February 15, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO BOARD OF ELECTRICITY

February 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BASKFIELD TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BUSH TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

February 13, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

February 8, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS PRESSLER TO THE BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

February 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE JUDICIAL STANDARDS BOARD

February 5, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CARLSON TO SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

February 1, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ROSENBLUM AND APPOINTS BOYUM TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO AND APPOINTS THREE TO THE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DR. LORNA REICHL AND DR. JOANNE SCHULMAN TO THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS GILCHRIST, LARSON AND SEAL TO THE BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THOMPSON TO THE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHNEIDER AND REAPPOINTS LEMBERG TO THE BOARD OF PHARMACY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS EIGHT TO THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

January 31, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO RURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

January 30, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA APPOINTS TWO TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

January 22, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE AND APPOINTS TWO TO MIDWEST HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ILIFF TO BARBER BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

January 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVENTEEN TO CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

January 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS THREE TO STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO AND APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE AND APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE AND REAPPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION PRACTICE

January 4, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS FINCH TO HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS GIBSON TO BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

January 2, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

2001 appointments

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
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Executive Orders

There are times, especially in an emergency, when a governor needs to use his authority to do something quickly, and without consulting the other branches of government.
Those are the times I use an Executive Order.
For instance, if flooding gets bad, I'll call out the National Guard by issuing an Executive Order.
After I sign one, it is published on this page.

October 17, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-10
TO AFFIRM THE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

October 7, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-09
PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM REGULATIONS TO MOTOR CARRIERS AND DRIVERS OPERATING IN MINNESOTA

July 5, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-08
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

June 24, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-07
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA COUNTIES

June 11, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-06
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-05
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO BELTRAMI, KITTSON, KOOCHICHING, LAKE OF THE WOODS, MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, POLK, RED LAKE, AND ROSEAU COUNTIES

June 10, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-04
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
NORMAN COUNTY

June 5, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-03
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 18, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-02
PROVIDING FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES
TO STATE AGENCIES UNDER THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT OF 1965 (P.L. 94-422);
RESCINDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 93-13

March 8, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-01
PROVIDING FOR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DRILL AND EXERCISE

October 1, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-11
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS IN
STATE REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS, VETERANS HOMES,
AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCES
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

August 20, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-10
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS IN
STATE REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS, VETERANS HOMES,
AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCES
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

June 7, 2001

PROCLAMATION
SPECIAL FOR SPECIAL SESSION 2001

May 9, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-07
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

May 4, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-06
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
THE FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF

April 30, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-05
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 17, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-04
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

April 10, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-03
PROVIDING FOR STATE RESPONSE TO FLOODING IN THE RED RIVER AND MINNESOTA RIVER BASINS

March 23, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-01
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S STATE CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

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THE BIG PLAN Healthy, Vital Communities

"Life is good no matter where you live in Minnesota"

The Vision

"Working together, we will not fail" is the hallmark expression of the Ventura Administration. It directly speaks to the power of people working together, be they in groups, neighborhoods or bigger community settings. One of Minnesota's strengths, and challenges, comes from the diversity of "communities" that exist across the state. Almost half of the state's population is concentrated in the greater Metropolitan area, stretching from St. Cloud to the urban centers of southern Minnesota. Vital regions are emerging around Duluth, Bemidji, Moorhead, Alexandria, Willmar, Worthington, and others. Governor Ventura is a believer in communities -- strong and vigorous -- and well served by local, trusted elected officials.

Initiatives

The Best K-12 Public Education in the Nation

> "I want to erase the word voucher from the vocabulary," were Governor Ventura's words in his first State of the State address. By these words, he focused the responsibility for delivering results squarely on every parent, every teacher, every administrator, and every school board member in Minnesota to do what is right for every child. The K-12 initiatives will involve agencies as diverse as Public Safety, Metropolitan Council, Corrections, and Housing Finance in new discussions of how to improve student achievement.
>
> Three tough questions were posed by the new Governor:
>
> How do we get the bang for our buck on education

spending (developing a formula that is based on results, not micro-management at the classroom level)

What is the state's role with clearly spelling out standards and then putting accountability at each level, starting with parents and including local districts (governance and accountability) and,

How can we promote the use of what we already know we should do, but too often don't do (using best practices across disciplines to better align K-12 and human services, health, housing, transit, and other state investments)?

The goal is simply this: to ensure the best public education for every child in Minnesota, and an optimal representative governance structure that delivers results.

High Student Achievement for ALL Students

The team will examine, and make recommendations for, practices that support results-oriented learning which focuses on student achievement and aligns core systems.

Lead Department:
Children, Families & Learning (CFL)
Support:
Public Safety; Corrections; Metropolitan Council; Health; Housing Finance Agency (HFA); Higher Education

Governance that Assures Resources are Being Well Spent

The team will review current state and local governance arrangements for the provision of elementary and secondary education and related services and facilities that serve children and families. The team will make recommendations for reforms that will clarify state and local responsibilities, improve accountability and enhance opportunities for innovations that will improve results for learners.

Lead Departments:
Minnesota Planning
Children, Families & Learning (CFL)
Support:
Finance

Education Funding that Supports Achievement and

Accountability

The team will examine how the school finance system can better support achievement, accountability and equity.

Lead Departments:
Children, Families & Learning (CFL); Finance;
Minnesota Planning
Support*:*
Revenue; Human Services; Health; Public Safety;
Housing Finance Agency (HFA); Metropolitan Council
Consultant:
Augenblick & Myers

Improving the Competitive Position of Rural Minnesota

Agriculture is a critical segment of Minnesota's economy. Our farm and rural families are an important part of Minnesota's identity and culture. Today farmers face many economic, social and environmental challenges. State agencies should work with farmers and the rural communities to help them share in the economic growth that is experienced in the rest of the state. State agencies should also help farmers by reducing unnecessary obstacles that limit their ability to be competitive in the world marketplace, while at the same time, helping to safeguard the environment and our food supply. Likewise, we need to help make our rural communities centers of economic activity to provide employment opportunities to keep young people in their communities and to provide off-farm employment for families that need to supplement their farm income.

Lead Department:
Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED)
Support:
Agriculture, Farm Cabinet
Documents, Reports and Additional Information:

Light Rail Transit

For too long, limited solutions have existed for solving transportation problems. Implementation of light rail transit, commuter rail, and dedicated high-speed bus routes will be elements of diversifying the options that exist to address transportation problems. Light Rail Transit is the first step in developing a true multimodal transportation system.

Lead Departments:
Department of Transportation (MnDOT);
Metropolitan Council
Support:
Finance

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:
Minnesota Department of Tranportation information on Lite Rail
Metropolitan Council's Hiawatha Corridor - Basic Facts

Growing Smart in Minnesota

> Recognizing that growth will occur, communities should be shaped by choice, not by chance. That Minnesota will grow is given; how we will grow is not. "Smart growth" principles force tough choices about how we will grow and how the state's resources will be used. It's a mindset about incentives, not mandates. Minnesota's resources should be focused on helping first those communities that are committed to sustaining existing development and enhancing our environmental resources through the development of greenways and the use of other tools to protect and conserve our open spaces. Smart growth is creating an environment in which farming and urban development can co-exist. Smart growth is fostering more reliance on transit and creating housing options that allow families to stay and invest in a community.

Lead Departments:
Metropolitan Council; Municipal Board; I-94;
Minnesota Planning (Urban GEIS)
Support:
Department of Transportation; Department of Natural Resources (DNR);
Finance; Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED);
Commerce; Administration; Housing Finance Agency (HFA);
Agriculture; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:
Metropolitan Council Minnesota Smarth Growth

Partnerships for Affordable Housing

> Local economies won't be healthy or vital without available, affordable housing for every citizen -- and especially to new workers. Plant expansion and job growth can grind to a halt if new employees cannot find housing near their work.

Existing businesses may not reinvest in their current location if neighborhood instability or deteriorating housing undermines the appeal of the community for workers and customers. Housing that is durable and well-maintained is an important part of a community's tax base and infrastructure. Where the private sector alone cannot produce housing for everyone, the public sector must act in partnership with communities, developers, employers, lenders, churches, schools, and residents to develop housing that is an asset to the community and a necessary support for a vital local economy.

Lead Department:
Housing Finance Agency (HFA)
Support:
Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED); Metropolitan Council; Children, Families & Learning (CFL); Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB); Revenue; Finance; Human Services

Multimodal Transportation to Get People and Goods Around Statewide

In 1976, the Minnesota Department of Highways changed its name to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. To realize the full benefits of this change, the state must be committed to supporting long-term comprehensive solutions that address the economic need to move goods and agricultural products through the state and the social implications of congestion on citizens and communities. In the new economy, which includes just-in-time inventories and Internet shopping, Minnesota's future economic competitiveness is dependent on how successful we are at moving people and products around with the least hassle possible.

Lead Departments:
Department of Transportation (MnDOT); Metropolitan Council
Support:
Finance; Revenue; Public Safety;
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

Telecommunications as Economic Development

The future economic vitality of the state hinges on the adaptation and use of tools that allow economic development, built on

community networks and telework centers, and that encourage and promote electronic commerce. Legal and regulatory access issues will be examined so that barriers to electronic transactions are removed, and parties to the transactions enjoy the same legal status they do in conventional transactions. These solutions will be constructed to allow interoperability across legal jurisdictions, including across State lines, while protecting the rights and responsibilities of all parties. Access to intrastate, national and international markets, will be made achievable and economically feasible through a visionary communications structure that permits access to expanded opportunities in voice, data, and video information transmitted instantaneously over high-speed networks, telephone lines, and wireless communications traffic to all parts of the state, and the world. High technology start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures will be encouraged and supported by appropriate government actions, and development of a formal network of banking, legal, accounting, and investment mentoring services. Every resident, business and government office of the state shall have access to the network. A transition from the current non-competitive regulatory environment to a consumer-oriented marketplace, with protections, is the best hope to make Minnesota a more attractive market for telecommunications infrastructure investment, and business in general.

Lead Departments:
Administration; Commerce; Minnesota Planning;
Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED)
Support:
Children, Families & Learning (CFL)

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:
Connecting Minnesota: Minnesota's Public/Private Telecommunications Partnership
Minnesota - Networked for the Future
Telecommunications policy and implementation
Net Plan

Living Human Rights & Respect

"Love is Bigger than Government"

The new census reveals a newly-diverse population characterized by widely diverse races, heritage, cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles. Diversity is not something that will happen sometime off in the future. It is the best word to capture the total picture of life right now in urban, suburban, and yes, rural communities across Minnesota. The Governor refers to the Constitution when he reminds us that every

citizen is afforded certain inalienable rights. He touches his own beliefs when he observes that "Love is bigger than government." In other words, government is required to ensure that every person has an equal access to education, and is not denied housing or a job or services because of who they are or what they believe. At the same time, the Governor cautions that the best government protections are insufficient to protect against the pain and inhumanity caused by individual acts of prejudice.

The entire cabinet of the Ventura Administration shares the commitment to serve every citizen equally. The Minnesota Councils of Color, established by state statute years ago, are valued advisors in the many aspects of achieving that goal. Meanwhile, the Department of Human Rights, together with many community-based partners, is entrusted to create safe places where Minnesotans, who may not speak the same languages, can have candid, honest conversations. When we can see each other as people logically comfortable with others who love and accept us, and not merely as groups that must be forced together by law, life will be good no matter where we live.

Lead Department:
Human Rights
Support:
All Departments;
Minnesota Councils of Color

Reliable Energy & Consumer Choices

The Ventura Administration recognizes the shift from the present regulatory structure to a competitive structure for providing energy services to Minnesota consumers. The competitive structure will, at a minimum:

Provide for access to service, reliability of service and competitive pricing;

Encourage development and utilization of renewable energy sources;

Provide energy consumers with market choices in all types of electric generation (i.e. natural gas, wind, hydro, nuclear, etc.);

Recognize the need for environmentally, economically,

and socially responsible generation and transmission development in the region; and

Encourage development of responsible generation and transmission infrastructure within Minnesota by allowing attractive returns on investment for developers and providers of all energy services.

Lead Department:
Commerce
Support:
Public Utilities Commission;
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Agriculture

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:

Ensuring an Information Highway that Leaves No Community Excluded

Implementation of a statewide high speed voice, data and video network will give our local communities, and in particular local institutions of criminal justice, health and learning, access to resources and information currently out of their geographic reach. There must be a state enterprise-wide integrated network capable of providing easy access to information as well as system integrity for stability and security throughout the state. Connecting Minnesota and other similar initiatives will enable several programs to achieve this integrity and improve service delivery by providing a high bandwidth network throughout the state. All Minnesota communities will be connected to the portals and resources of the digital world through a reliable, cost-effective, and secure communications infrastructure. Electronic technology standards and guidelines adopted by all agencies and departments will increase their ability to work together, share information and leverage resources, while providing essential access to all citizens as well as local units of government. Electronic technologies utilized in government service will provide greater levels of access, ease and convenience for citizens using government services, as well as contributing to communities across the state. Our objective is to provide access to government services and commercial activity by means of electronic connectivity which is high speed, integrated and global.

Lead Departments
Administration;

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) (do I.T.!)

Support:

Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED);
Commerce;
Minnesota Planning; Public Safety; Labor & Industry;
Corrections; Children, Families & Learning (CFL); Higher Education;
Secretary of State; Attorney General; Judiciary

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:

Connecting Minnesota: Minnesota's Public/Private Telecommunications Partnership
Minnesota - Networked for the Future
Telecommunications policy and implementation
Net Plan
"Information Highway" Business Strategies
Connecting Minnesota
Information Highway Mini-Cabinet

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Self-Sufficient People

"You're gonna make it on your own"

The Vision

Choices provided equitably to all people, combined with each individual's courage to try them, describes the fit between strategic government investments and the goal of self-sufficiency under the Ventura Administration. It's not a new concept. In fact, it builds on the strong traditional Minnesota ethic of hard work, discipline, and individual contributions to the public good.

The willingness to keep learning throughout life and actually apply that knowledge to everyday decisions ensures every person opportunities to achieve his or her own definition of self-sufficiency. It may be to obtain a good job, become a good parent, contribute to the community, or live healthy and independent into older years. It may be to learn English, assist farm families through innovative marketing, or build a new business. Every person has different needs during his or her lifetime for help in achieving self-sufficiency. While there is a key role for government in our lives, government should really do only that which individuals cannot do for themselves to survive and thrive. Government should appropriately provide a safety net ... not a hammock.

Initiatives

Transitioning from Welfare to Self-Sufficiency

Everyone gets down on his or her luck at one time or another. Minnesota is committed to helping those who are really down, particularly families with children. That help, however, should be temporary, should not substitute for the parents' own responsibility to support and care for their children, and, above all, should

encourage people to become as self-sufficient as possible. Minnesota's welfare reform, the Minnesota Family Investment Program, has been successful in helping many people find and keep jobs. Many of these jobs, however, are either less than full-time or pay low wages that require continuing dependence on public support. Our commitment to self-sufficiency for all Minnesotans calls for creative effort to identify strategies to help low-income families become truly independent through their own efforts, but with appropriate public support. Our success in moving people toward self-sufficiency depends not just on living support, job training and education, but also on stable and affordable housing, safe child care, accessible health care, and transportation. We need to ensure that all players needed to help people move out of poverty are working together to accomplish that goal, [among others, that counties and various state departments have clearly--defined and mutually supportive roles and responsibilities].

Lead Department:
Human Services
Support:
Workforce Development Council;
Housing Finance Agency (HFA);
Transportation (MnDOT); Health

Documents, Reports and Additional Information

A Health System for the Next 50 Years

We have a great need and a great opportunity to redesign some things about our health system. Individual citizens must play a much larger role in their own health. People should have a greater array of choices and a larger say in how health services are delivered. And we all must take more responsibility for the choices we make about health risk behaviors. The choices we make matter profoundly when it comes to health care. Lifestyle choices directly determine a large percentage -- maybe even the majority -- of all health care spending. A health system built for the future needs to promote and reward healthy choices. We must also become more mindful of how we use health care services. The "entitlement" mindset for many people today is to demand and use health care services without regard to cost because they feel it is their "due"... All of us need to understand the economic stake we have in the overall consumption of health services. If we all shared more of the economic responsibility, we'd probably also demand better value for our investment.

Although Minnesota's health system is generally admired, it can and should be strengthened for the future. There are still too many uninsured Minnesotans, including approximately 70,000 children. The uninsured either go without care and compromise their health, or they get care in the most uneconomical ways -- ultimately paid for by insured citizens and taxpayers. Not only is this system uneconomical, but it is increasingly fragile, with the safety net at risk of collapse as health care institutions are financially squeezed.

The conflicting expectations of various stakeholders are pulling health care in opposite directions and creating an overly complicated system. We need a broad-based community dialogue in order to develop a common view of what we want out of our health system, and more consensus about how to get it. The health system must invest more heavily in and reward prevention, not just treatment. We must help refocus the system on producing better health status for all Minnesotans, not just on producing more and costlier services that fewer and fewer people can afford. Given the stresses on the health system today, and the coming demographic challenges of a more diverse, rapidly aging population, we need a vision of a new health system built not for the last 50 years, but for the next 50 years.

Lead Department:
Health (Health Policy Committee)
Support:
Human Services; Finance; Commerce;
Minnesota Planning (2030 Study)

Insisting that Parents PARENT

It may take a village to raise a child, but not even an entire village can make up the difference if parents do not joyfully accept their first and largest responsibility. The Ventura-Schunk Administration advocates policies and programs that clearly define state government's limited role in raising our children; by returning the emphasis in the school day to classroom education; fulfilling our constitutional role of funding the best public education system we can provide; encouraging parents to be more involved in their schools and communities; continuing to cut tax burdens to give parents more time, energy and personal resources for their children; and helping parents better access the information and services that are available in their communities and state.

Lead Departments:
Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Support:
Children, Families & Learning (CFL);
Health; Public Safety; Human Services;
Corrections; Judiciary

Documents, Reports and Additional Information
Information on Higher Education for Parents
Information for K - 12 Students on Higher Education

Independent Living

Limitations due to age, physical or mental condition will prevent some members of our communities from achieving complete self-sufficiency. Our goal, however, should be a life as independent and self-sufficient as possible. Senior citizens, for example, should have the opportunity to live in their homes as long as possible and, when that is no longer feasible, to receive the care they need -- both from their families and from professional care-givers -- in a setting that is as supportive as possible. We need to ensure that our policies and programs reflect this perspective and serve our seniors well, but without excessive burden on our society. This will be a growing challenge as the population over age 65 doubles in the next 30 years while the number of people of working age shrinks. People with disabilities, in turn, suffer a high level of unemployment -- a serious problem to them and a loss of their skills to an economy that is struggling to find sufficient workers. We need improved strategies to bring disabled people into the workplace in larger numbers, ensuring the possibility for them to become as self-sufficient as possible.

Lead Department:
Human Services (2030 Study)
Support:
Health; Minnesota Planning; Metropolitan Council;
Veterans Affairs; Human Rights;
Housing Finance Agency (HFA); Revenue

Assuring Lifelong Learning for Work and Life

Minnesota's accessible, vast network of opportunities for continuing informal and formal higher education is the envy of the nation. The state that led the way for community education and early childhood education attached to the K-12 education system also built technical colleges, state colleges, a stellar land-grant university system, and supported some of the nation's finest private colleges. In the year 2000, a vast majority of Minnesotans will

have unlimited access to learning options via the Internet. Employers struggling to find and retain qualified workers in a time of full employment value and invest in job training more than ever before. Changing demographics are provoking new demands for learning among people for whom English is not a first language, for senior citizens, and for mid-career professionals seeking new challenges in work and life. The next questions relate to maintaining the infrastructure, making tough decisions to place programs where they are actually needed to serve populations, and surfing the wave of change that technologies like CD-ROM, interactive videodisk, and the Internet provide.

Lead:
Governor's Office
Support:
University of Minnesota;
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU);
Workforce Development Council; Labor & Industry;
Children, Families & Learning (CFL); Administration

Documents, Reports and Additional Information

Tobacco Settlement Endowments: Improving Health Status for All Minnesotans

Good health is both a prerequisite to self-sufficiency and a result of personal responsibility for healthy lifestyle choices. Governor Ventura saw the tobacco lawsuit settlement as a rare chance to make a long-term investment in better health for all Minnesotans today and far into the future. The medical education and research trust funds will be used to keep Minnesota at the forefront in training new health professionals, and in research into prevention and treatment of disease -- including diseases caused by tobacco use. The tobacco prevention and public health endowments will be used to make significant reductions in tobacco use and other risk behaviors by youth. Strategies aimed at changing youth mindsets and community norms will be developed by youth. As a result, Minnesota's young people will be better equipped to make smart choices that will increase both their health status and their prospects for self-sufficiency and future success. Fundamentally, the Youth Tobacco Prevention Initiative is about equipping a whole generation of kids to take responsibility for their own health and to make better choices, now and into the future. Healthy kids learn better, and well-educated healthy adults have far better prospects for employment and economic success. And healthy individuals are at the heart of healthy communities.

Lead Department:
Health
Support:
Employee Relations (DOER); Human Services

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THE BIG PLAN Service, Not Systems THE BIG PLAN

Reforms to Rebuild Trust in Government

The Vision

A government too complex, too mysterious, is also too inaccessible. It unnecessarily excludes the people who form it. Using the best practices and principles of the "already-tried," incorporating vigorous citizen input, and mixing in a whole lot of common sense, the Ventura administration envisions a simpler state government and an involved citizenry. It won't necessarily mean lopping off an arm or leg, but will surely include being put on a diet to be lean.

We'll bring reform to state departments and agencies, reigning in excessive rule making, clarifying overlapping roles, and bringing greater cooperation between departments to benefit all Minnesotans. One big reform will be our push for a unicameral legislature. We'll introduce a variety of government systems and services reforms, including a simplified tax system and more one-stop government shopping via technology improvements. And we'll support any effort, including the Chief Justice's in regard to the judiciary, to demystify government to make it a friend, not a foe.

In addition, existing laws pertaining to campaigns and elections need to be reviewed and amended to allow for full participation by credible third parties.

Initiatives

Rein in Rulemaking & Excessive Regulation

In a new era when the Governor has obtained authority for vetoes over executive branch rule making, it is crucial to establish a new philosophy and process for writing, review, and final decisions. There is a need for periodic review of existing rules to identify

those that are obsolete, and evaluate the continuing need for additional rules. A continuing goal is to involve stakeholders and citizens at the beginning of rule making to gain the broadest possible perspective on need, reasonableness, clarity and enforceability. Above all, it is the administration's desire to limit the size of state government, increase accountability, and serve citizens responsibly and responsively.

Lead: Governor's Office
Support: All Departments

Single House Legislature
*"Let's trust the voters to decide how they will be governed in the next millennium***."**

Many state leaders agree that a single house system of government would better serve Minnesotans. A single house would be more open, accountable and responsive. In a more streamlined legislative process, citizens would be able to understand and follow legislation. It would place the responsibility for representation squarely on the shoulders of a single elected legislature rather than on two houses that can hide behind one another to avoid taking responsibility for tough votes. A single house would bring power to the people instead of concentrating power in the hands of a few powerful conference committee members. Every amendment and every bill would be given the respect of a recorded vote. While some powerful leaders may oppose a single house, ultimately we should trust the people to decide this issue.

Lead Department: Minnesota Planning
Support: Governor's Office

A Tax System that Makes Sense

Over 150 years, Minnesota's state and local tax system has grown into a jungle of levies, credits, refunds, exemptions, and aid transfers that are sometimes outmoded, frequently contradictory, and that virtually no taxpayer (or even expert) understands well. We need to listen to citizens as well as tax experts to learn what's working and what isn't, and how to build a tax system that is **simpler and easier to deal with** from the taxpayer's point of view. A better tax system will be more **understandable** and **predictable** for taxpayers, so they know how much tax they're paying and why, what government is doing with those dollars, and how to have meaningful influence on the budget and tax processes. A better tax system will be more **fair**, balancing

citizens' ability to pay and the cost and benefits of the government services they consume, and building confidence that the tax laws are being applied evenhandedly to all. A fair tax system will eliminate unfunded mandates by assigning tax responsibility to the same level of government that defines what levels of service will be provided. A better tax system will be **modern,** reflecting the economy, technology, and society of the 21st century so we can raise sufficient revenue to meet future needs, be competitive with other states and countries and incorporate new technology and ways of doing business. And finally, a better tax system will just **make sense** for Minnesota, with tax laws that align with our broader goals and don't undermine citizens and communities from doing the right things.

Lead Department: Revenue
Support: Finance; All Departments

Documents, Reports and Additional Information:
Citizens League Report on Property Taxes
Reforming the Tax System information from the Department of Revenue
Tax Reform: What we hear about the Property Tax

Active, Engaged Citizens
"Citizen participation is critical to our representative democracy**."**

The success of our representative democracy depends on an active, engaged citizenry. Unfortunately, voter turnout has dropped dramatically nationwide as people have grown distrustful of politicians and our political institutions. While our elected officials are certainly responsible for creating an open and fair system, it is up to citizens to stay involved in their government. Voting is the most basic measure of citizen involvement. Increasing voter turnout will help to improve citizen participation and rebuild trust between elected officials and citizens. Goal: At least 70% voter turnout in every election!

Lead: Governor's Office
Support: Secretary of State; Minnesota Planning

State Departments: Best Bang for the Buck

The state must reaffirm its commitment to quality service for its citizens, with success measured by actual outcomes rather than process, and to a cost-conscious state government. Duplication of state services will be minimized wherever feasible or practical, and adequate communication between governmental units will be assured. Bureaucracy must be minimized. The use of technology will be employed to permit agencies to deliver more efficient and

cost-effective services, and to eliminate redundant systems. Agencies with similar missions, or similar customer bases, will be located in common or clustered facilities to facilitate communication and cooperation. Information and technology needs will be integrated into a comprehensive plan for service provision throughout the State. Our focus is on improving the quality and ability to share information, and the effective use of technology in this endeavor. Increasing the efficiency of government, continuously increasing the quality of services, and obtaining the best value for every taxpayer dollar spent is a hallmark of the Ventura-Schunk Administration.

Lead Departments: Administration; Employee Relations (DOER);
Finance; Minnesota Planning
Support: Other Departments

Reforming "Politics As Usual"
"Public offices shouldn't go to the highest bidder."

Today's political campaigns are too often about power and money. Campaign spending is spiraling out of control as candidates squander outrageous amounts of money to sell their packaged, politically-correct "ideas" to voters. Sadly, it's getting to the point where citizens who are interested in seeking public office are often not able to compete with seasoned politicians and their pocketbooks. It's no wonder that people are getting turned off to "politics as usual." Our political process should be driven by the public good, not power-hungry politicians and big-moneyed special interests. If we hope to re-engage citizens in our political process, we must limit the influence of special interests in campaigns, level the playing field between challengers and incumbents, and focus on issues that matter to Minnesotans.

Lead: Governor's Office

Electronic Government Services

Electronic commerce over the Internet is a centerpiece of the global information revolution. Because citizens are going online at an ever-increasing rate, electronic commerce is at once global, national and local in both scope and impact. Sound policy is essential for both the Internet and online commerce to reach their full potential. This requires a partnership among all the individuals and groups that have an interest in the creation of technology policy within the state, and does not lend itself to the traditional "top-down" model that provides solutions dictated by

government to industry. The legal framework that supports commercial transactions on the Internet should be governed by consistent principles across state, national and international boundaries that lead to predictable results regardless of the jurisdiction in which a particular buyer or seller resides. With respect to electronic government services, a unified, common registry for all citizens, which includes licensing across state government agencies in a one-stop forum, must be implemented. Such a registry should be accessible for cross-reference among agency and other governmental files. Government purchasing, inventory, and sales, from goods to real estate, must be transacted and advertised on a central file server. Electronic tax filing, and payroll communications, also will be conducted online. Such initiatives will increase government efficiency, provide for a comprehensive and coordinated information management system, and create avenues for citizen communication and participation with their government. Such initiatives also will be utilized to increase service levels, and speed up transactions across state government, while permitting both government and business to maintain a level playing field in commercial transactions.

Lead Department: Administration
Support: Other Departments
Documents, Reports and Additional Information:
Electronic Government Services Mini-Cabinet
Minnesota - Networked for the Future
Electronic Government Services

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THE BIG PLAN

Minnesota: World Competitor

A Leader Among States and Nations

The Vision

We are in a period of enormous and escalating economic and social change. As competition grows fiercer, and as the consequences of our decisions grow ever more wide-ranging, Minnesota must continue to expand its presence in the world marketplace and enhance its competitive position. Globalization in communication, trade, culture, and in the very texture of our daily lives has become an accelerating force. Readiness for globalization is crucial to healthy communities, self-sufficiency, and governmental reform. We must be ready. We must respond. We must lead. The Governor's vision is a state that can compete with the best in the world marketplace. We need a well-educated and flexible workforce that is sought out as the most efficient, effective, and productive - able to handle the highest level tasks. We need a strong and diverse base of efficient and entrepreneurial businesses, up-to-the-minute in technological expertise, and able to respond rapidly to the changing demands of the world marketplace. We need a modern information infrastructure that links the far corners of the state. We need a government that is lean, efficient, responsive, and supportive of our globalization readiness efforts. And we need an aggressive program of business development that ensures we maintain our pre-eminent position into the future.

Initiatives

Trade: Tapping the World's Interest in Minnesota

Products, services, and ideas don't sell themselves, and the global marketplace is increasingly a noisy, busy, hurry-up kind of place. If we want to stand out in the fray, we must make vigorous efforts to showcase what Minnesota has to offer. With more than

$15 billion in foreign sales of our manufactured goods, services, and agricultural products, Minnesota is already an international player. At this time, however, the eyes of the world are upon Minnesota in a way they have never seen before. A singular opportunity exists to convert the world's interest in the State of Minnesota and this Governor into increased trading and business opportunities for Minnesota companies. Our mission is to create a "World Plan" that provides a country-by-country strategic analysis to ensure that state resources are effectively focused on those countries that have the greatest potential for improving Minnesota trade.

Lead Department: Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED); Minnesota Trade Office
Support: Agriculture; Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

Agriculture: Competitive Anywhere in the World

We are in a global economy whether we like it or not. As such, we can either bemoan those factors (i.e., prices) over which we have no control - or we can work together to make our farm families the most competitive we can by lowering the cost of production or adding value to the raw products before they leave the state. With this in mind, we need to give attention to taxation policy, overly burdensome environmental regulations and land-use laws, access to capital, financing and organizational structuring options, and adequate transportation infrastructure. We also must support research and technology transfer, as well as encourage continuing educational opportunities. We need to work to "level the playing field" in both international trade and national farm policies so that our farmers and agri-businesses can compete in a fair, competitive arena. In addition, we need to improve and increase marketing opportunities, both domestic and foreign, not only for our major commodities, but also for unique specialty crops and products. Farm families that utilize risk management techniques will have increased their potential to succeed - we must help them develop these skills.

Minnesota is in the worldwide spotlight. We need to take advantage of this opportunity. Our farms and agri-businesses are some of the most productive anywhere. Our goal is to help them create new opportunities and showcase them throughout the world.

Lead Department: Agriculture

Support: Farm Cabinet; University of Minnesota; Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)
Documents, Reports and Additional Information
Agricultural Marketing Division

Developing the Workforce for Tomorrow

Eight years of economic growth has done us a world of good. Minnesota's overall unemployment rate is lower than ever. But now we face a workforce shortage, which makes us less competitive in a global marketplace. It's vital to our ongoing economic health that we have a well-trained, flexible, and healthy workforce that allows us to be quickly responsive to the opportunities that globalization presents. That means training and retraining constantly during a person's working life. It means looking after displaced workers to get them back into the game with salable skills. It means providing adequate medical care and benefits to injured workers, so that they can return to suitable work as soon as possible. It means finding new workers. When someone says, "We need good people who can do X, Y, and Z. Do you have them for us?" We want to be able to say, "You bet we do!"

Lead Departments: Economic Security; Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED)
Support: Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU); Minnesota Planning; University of Minnesota; Labor & Industry; Human Services; Administration; Children, Families & Learning (CFL)

Documents, Reports and Additional Information
Governor's Workforce Development Council
Workforce Centers
Work Force Development Division

The Best Climate to Grow Business

For Minnesota to be competitive in today's global environment, our business development initiatives will be focused on high growth industries and high quality jobs. Minnesota's businesses will continue to prosper with a supportive business environment. The best business we have is the business we have today. So we need to do everything we can to make sure healthy businesses stay in Minnesota - and expand in Minnesota. And we need to encourage and facilitate linkages between community leadership, resources and businesses to ensure expansion occurs statewide.

In today's increasingly mobile and evolving business world, we

must help to generate new entrepreneurs and enterprises. To give new businesses every chance to grow into major employers, we will develop programs that speak directly to their needs for capital, for technology, and for entrepreneurial skills and expertise.

Lead Department: Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED)
Support: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB);
Local Agencies; Minnesota Business Partnership;
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Documents, Reports and Additional Information

Facts and Figures
BizLinks: Business, Tax and Regulatory Information
Business Development

Commercialization of New Technologies

Technology advancement and applications can **lead** to increased productivity and competitiveness of today's businesses and to the start-up of businesses that become tomorrow's economic giants - and giant employers.

As part of our global readiness strategy, we need to help maximize access to technology and the commercialization of new technologies. We also need to encourage the successful transfer of research and technology from our state's major research university and other research institutions in the private sector.

Lead Departments: Department of Trade & Economic Development (DTED); Administration
Support: Health; University of Minnesota;
Minnesota Technology, Inc. (MTI); AURI

Jesse "The Tourism Governor" Ventura: Promoting Minnesota, Promoting the Industry

Tourism is about having fun! However, for our Great State, it's also about the bottom line. At a return of $9 to every $1 invested, Minnesota's tourism industry deserves our support and leveraging. A lot of folks are paying attention to Minnesota, so why not capitalize on their curiosity, welcome them with open arms, and show them just why Minnesota is worth visiting and investing in.

Minnesota is truly unique in the Upper Midwest. With our wealth

of recreational and cultural attractions, there's much to promote. From this month forward, Governor Ventura will deliver a "monthly Minnesota tourism message" ... that's 39 gubernatorial pronouncements of why the world should come to Minnesota!

Lead Department: Department of Trade & Economic Development/Minnesota Office of Tourism
Support: Local and State Convention & Visitor Organizations; Natural Resources (DNR); Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

Documents, Reports and Additional Information

Explore Minnesota
Outdoor recreation

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Testimony before U.S. House subcommittee on Trade
Radisson South, Bloomington
May 14, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Representative Ramstad.

Let me first welcome you, Chairman Crane and other members of the trade subcommittee, to the great state of Minnesota.

If you get a chance, may I suggest you take an extra day and visit one of our beautiful lakes, or take a stroll through the Mall of America or see the hottest team in baseball, the Minnesota Twins.

I think you'll find that Minnesota is truly the greatest state in the nation.

But we are much more than a great place to visit. We're also home to leading agriculture and medical manufacturing companies that feed people and save lives throughout the world.

I'm glad to see that you've brought before you today some of these industry leaders. They are competing on the world stage while building a better Minnesota here at home.

And they still have time to keep an eye on what you're up to in Washington, especially when it comes to trade.

A critical portion of my *Big Plan* for Minnesota is about keeping Minnesota a competitor on the world stage. I want Minnesotans to set higher goals and expect more.

We cannot settle for being the best in the Midwest or the best in the country. We must strive to lead the world by increasing exports, creating better jobs, and building a stronger and more diverse Minnesota economy.

Last year, we set a record. For the first time, Minnesota-

manufactured exports surged to over $10 billion and our State's export rate grew by 11.2 percent.

In case you didn't notice, **we have arrived**.

But we're not stopping there.

I'd like to highlight some of the important trade issues facing these industries, and the work left to be done, but first, let me share some of my newfound Eastern Philosophy.

Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting the Dalai Lama. I was impressed by his peaceful charisma and statesmanship. To my surprise, the Dalai Lama and I bonded. After all:

- We both share a hairline with Buddah.
- He's written 56 books, I'm getting there.
- And, although he's not a golfer, I did interest him in renting the movie Caddyshack. After all, he does play a major role in the movie, and he's never seen it.

Above all, the Dalai Lama and I share a similar view on engaging the world in order to spread free markets and free ideals.

The Dalai Lama preaches "common responsibility" when it comes to world relationships. He believes that we cannot close our doors to those around us, but we must embrace differences throughout the world and spread democracy and human kindness by forming relationships.

He believes that we *must* develop relationships with the Chinese people and the Chinese government so that our democratic ideals and free trade ideals spread like wildfire.

If we don't, we will not change minds. We will not open markets. We will not move forward.

I took this encouragement very seriously and I vow to spread this message when I go to China on a Minnesota trade mission this fall.

I'm going to China because I strongly believe that we have an opportunity, especially in Minnesota, to grow markets in China, especially in the areas of agriculture and medical technology.

Last time we met, I was asking for your support for trade with China. Thankfully, the **tripartisan** effort to establish permanent normal trading relations with China was a success.

It goes to show you how good things can happen when partisanship is set aside and sound policy prevails. Thank you for your work on this issue.

But don't stop there.

Minnesota's medical technology and agriculture industries need you to continue to push for a "Free Trade Agreement of the Americas" and for what you are now calling "Trade Negotiating Authority."

As you will learn today, Minnesota is home to a thriving international medical technology industry.

We are a leader in medical manufacturing, with total production of more than $1 billion.

Our innovative medical establishment, enterprising research institutions, educated labor force and high-tech environment make Minnesota fertile ground for medical devices.

Overall, the industry in Minnesota employs over 20,000 people. Between 1988 and 1996, the industry added the largest number of new employees to the state - over 7,400 jobs.

We like these high-wage, high-skill jobs and I think that free trade makes this industry stronger and more productive.

But to keep this industry-and others-thriving, we need Washington to implement more free trade agreements.

The sad fact is that while other countries forge ahead with new trade agreements, the United States is falling far behind.

According to a recent study from the Business Roundtable, there are 130 free trade agreements in force throughout the world. The United States is currently part of only 2 free trade agreements. That means our farmers and our manufacturers face discrimination through higher tariffs in hundreds of markets throughout the world.

Last year, our strong exports in the medical manufacturing sector were driven by exports to Japan, Germany, Ireland, Canada, and the Netherlands. Unfortunately, you don't see any Central or South American nations in the top five. It's time for a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, so our manufacturers can improve access and increase exports to markets right here in our hemisphere.

Agriculture producers remain the backbone of Minnesota's economy. Our dairy farms, live animal production, and commodity

farmers export hundreds of millions of dollars worth of food every year, making us the 7th largest exporter of agricultural products in the United States.

Minnesota's world class agricultural producers are responsible for 10% of our nation's exports of soybeans and 10% of America's exports of feed grains.

Because of the innovative spirit of Minnesotans, because of our strong work ethic, and because our skilled workforce, we have done a pretty darn good job with agriculture exports. But let's face it, we can do better.

Of course, if we want more free trade agreements, the President needs sufficient negotiating authority. Thank you, by the way, for changing the term from Fast Track to "Trade Promotion Authority."

No matter what you call it, we need it.

Education is the key. The three most dangerous opponents of free trade are **misinformation, misunderstanding**, and **ignorance**. In a recent New York Times column talking about the protesters in Quebec City, Minnesota native Thomas Friedman put it best, when he said,

> "this anti-globalization movement is largely the well-intentioned but ill-informed - being led around by the ill-intentioned and well-informed -"

In order to pass Trade Promotion Authority, we need to first take this case to the American people and spread the word about the benefits of free trade.

Your presence here today is a good step in that direction.

I applaud you for taking your committee out of Washington. It's always good to get a fresh perspective.

For far too long, discussions about trade have only taken place in the committee rooms of Washington, the boardrooms of corporations and the classrooms of economics professors.

It's time to turn it up a notch and put the word on the streets.

Let's move the discussion out of the committee rooms and boardrooms and bring it to the break rooms and living rooms. Let's move the discussion beyond the hallowed halls of our universities

and take it to the people who get up and go to work every day.

I have been around the world and back to promote Minnesota products and workers and educate the citizens of my state about the jobs created through exports. I have been to Mexico and Japan, where I've seen firsthand that the products made in Minnesota save lives and feed people.

Mr. Chairman and Congressman Ramstad please take a message back to Washington from the people of Minnesota. We need Congress to approve Trade Promotion Authority for the President, and we need to participate in more trade agreements. We want more high-paying jobs. We need more pacemakers in Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Poland and Pongo Pongo. We need more soybeans in Senegal, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Singapore.

As the Dalai Lama told me, so I share with you. "Go into the world and make friends, and take your values with you."

I'm going to China, and I'm taking my values with me. And I'll also take Minnesota soybeans, Minnesota medical devices and Minnesota's hope for prosperity in the world.

Let's engage. Let's move forward.

Thank you.

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Testimony on Free Trade before Senate Finance Committee, Subcommittee on International Trade October 5, 2000

Thank you, Chairman Grassley, for the opportunity to share my ideas on free trade with members of your Committee.

I am humbled that you think I can help you set the agenda.

Free trade helps Minnesota -- Minnesota's farmers, Minnesota's entrepreneurs, Minnesota's manufacturers and Minnesota's workers.

There are great benefits to them all when they compete in a global economy.

The Congress deserves **congratulations** on a job well done. Passing permanent normal trade relations with China was a true watershed event for free trade in our history.

PNTR will redefine our country's relationship with the biggest population in the world, and it will boost the flow of democratic ideals and fair business practices in China.

You did the right thing.

But now is not the time to rest on our laurels.

To keep this momentum on healthy trade, my message to you today is fourfold and simple:

- **Put politics aside,**
- **Correct past mistakes,**
- **Embrace emerging markets, and**
- **Compete with confidence.**

First, now is the time put politics aside, honor and enforce

past agreements and to make this new agreement work.

Now is the time to build a tripartisan consensus on trade policy.

For example:

Next year, you will consider a bilateral and commercial trade agreement between the United States and Vietnam.

I believe that open trade can bring positive energy and democratic values to a relationship between two countries that has poisoned so many.

Ask Senator John McCain or Senator Bob Kerrey about the need to embrace such an agreement. Do not let their efforts in Southeast Asia -- or the efforts of an entire generation -- go by the wayside.

Through trade, help our nations heal the past.

Trade may even help bring peace to the Middle East, a peace that is badly needed today.

A Senate endorsement of the U.S.--Jordan free trade agreement will be a step in the right direction.

Another positive step would be to grant the President **Fast Track Trade Negotiating Authority**.

"Fast Track Authority" should be called "Common Sense Negotiating". A new name might give it the P.R. help it needs.

"Fast Track" is not about fly-by-night decisions made by the President in a vacuum; it is about the ability to make time sensitive decisions that will help America compete in this fast-paced new economy.

It's about recognizing that we can't let gamesmanship hold us back in the new economy.

It's about common sense.

Every President has had this negotiating power, and it makes sense that we show the world that in the year 2000, we're truly ready to compete in the worldwide ring.

The need for Common Sense Negotiating Authority is not about politics or power. President Bush will need it as much

as President Gore, President Nader, President Hagelin ... well, I think you get the picture.

My second message to you today is: Correct Past Mistakes.

We already know that closed doors don't work. We've tried that. For 45 years we've had an embargo to prove that we don't like how Cuba rules.

Well the joke's on us. Castro has outlasted nine going on 10 presidents.

Communism remains.

Markets are shut to our agriculture products, and we haven't impacted improvements in human rights.

Opening the Cuba market won't be a huge money-maker. I understand that it's a small market compared to China.

But opening Cuba would demonstrate to regular people at home, and our trading partners around the world, that common sense can prevail.

An open Cuba makes perfect sense to small businesses like Nuaire, a small Minnesota company that manufactures, among other things, biological safety cabinets and incubators.

Nuaire wants to see Cuba sanctions lifted because they have lost **years** of business to Swedish and German competitors as a result of the embargo.

And -- while they have been trying to deal with the current approval and licensing requirements at the Department of Treasury that would let them sell in Cuba, they are running into a severe case of **RED TAPE**.

Small companies like Nuaire are the backbone of our economyand making them suffer because of a stubborn, pigheaded and outdated chip on our shoulder is just plain stupid.

I think you get my point.

<u>Third, Embrace Emerging Markets.</u>

I strongly believe that Minnesota's potential in the world marketplace is proportional to the success we have in helping our

minority communities thrive at home.

We need to change the mindset about the potential of minority-owned businesses and embrace new communities who are adding more and more value to our economy every day.

As Governor, I am serious about helping to change this mindset in Minnesota.We must learn how to tap into the new immigrant energy that has taken ahold of our state.

It's an exciting challenge.

There is a declaration being circulated in Minnesota called the "Emerging Market Alliance Declaration." Minority entrepreneurs who want to raise awareness about their potential in Minnesota drafted this declaration.

You have it in front of you today.

I have signed this declaration, and I encourage you to do the same, pass it on to your colleagues and take it back to your states.

It's a move toward a new mindset.

Take a lesson from Minnesota. Embrace emerging markets inside and outside our borders.

Speaking of emerging markets, currently, we have a great success story of a country once considered an emerging market.

Mexico, I am please to say, **has arrived.**

Our southern neighbor is now 13th in the world in GDP, and represents a market of opportunity for Minnesota products and services.

I will be traveling to Mexico at the end of this month to seek those expanding opportunities.

What an exciting time of change and energy in Mexico. President-elect Visahntae (Vicente) Fox has -- like I said on election night in Minnesota --**shocked the world.**

And thanks to President Zedillo's statesmanship, a smooth and democratic transition will help breed success.

As U.S. neighbors, we must recognize this historic transition, congratulate President Zedillo, and **Embrace President-elect Fox!**

He represents new ideas, change and energy. We must do what we can to help him and Mexico succeed.

Finally, one last message: Compete with confidence!

U. S. workers are the best!

As Governor of Minnesota, I support free trade because, simply, it improves the quality of life for all Minnesotans.

When you adjourn and go home to your states, spend some time talking to small businesses, farmers and young people who have new opportunities in front of them today because of free trade.

Talk to your Governor. I can tell you, it's a great time to be Governor. We are able to advocate for our states around the globe while riding a huge economic wave.

Governor Vilsak of Iowa has been to Taiwan, Japan and China, Governor Shaffer of North Dakota was just in China, Governor Whitman of New Jersey has been to Japan and Tawain, and Governor Lock of Washington has been around the globe. Use these great ambassadors and support them in their quests for trading opportunities for your constituents.

I, for one, am going to continue to boost Minnesota's opportunities on the world stage. I have done it in Japan, in Canada, and I will do it in Mexico, China and Europe during my tenure as Governor.

I'll put Minnesota workers, Minnesota farmers and Minnesota manufacturers up against anyone in the world.

Have the confidence to do the same for your constituents.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to address you.

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U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Testimony on Normal Trading Relations for China
March 30, 2000

Congressman Ramstad, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to testify in favor of China's participation in the WTO and permanent normal trading relations with China. It is a sincere honor to represent the state of Minnesota before the Ways and Means Committee.

That said, let me start by declaring what I am not.

I'm no trade expert, I don't speak Chinese and I've never negotiated an international trade deal. They didn't offer international trade relations at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis.

What I do bring to you today is a dose of common sense.

China's participation in the WTO and permanent normal trade relations between China and the United States is the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st Century, and it's being handed to us on a silver platter.

To join the WTO, China has made **one-way** concessions across the board in agriculture, manufactured goods, services, technology and telecommunications. I like the idea of all countries playing by the same rules, and I like the idea of 134 countries joining us to shake one world-wide finger at China if they break international trade deals. That's essentially what the WTO will allow.

There is a Chinese saying that says **"One hand can't block the sun."** Not my hand. Not the hand of Congress. Not the President's hand. China is going to trade in the international marketplace with or without our stamp of approval. We alone

cannot prevent China from entering the WTO and trading with everybody else.

If Congress votes down this agreement, China will still enter the WTO, but won't have to live by the rules we've negotiated. Obviously, this would put us at a disadvantage and would cause our U.S. companies to be treated as second class citizens.

Closed doors don't work. We've tried that. For 45 years we've had an embargo to prove that we don't like how Cuba does business. Well the joke's on us. Castro has outlasted nine going on 10 presidents. While embroiling ourselves in controversies over little children, communism remains.

Markets are shut to our agriculture products, and we haven't impacted improvements in human rights.

Let's not let that happen here. Enough about Cuba that's for another day.

I'm here to tell you who cares about this China issue in Minnesota.

Farmers care. Business both big and small care. And, finally, a lot of ordinary people with common sense care.

Farmers care, because as Minnesota's agriculture leaders told me, this agreement is the single most important step we can take to improve market opportunities for agriculture. And the farm economy could use a boost right now.

Farmers want to be self-sufficient. They don't want to rely on government subsidies. They want the right to market their products and get a fair price and profit. Free trade, more than anything else we can do, gives them that chance.

Producers are also interested in PNTR for China and China's participation in the WTO because they are tired of being the pawn in the game of international relations. Time after time, U.S. foreign policy negotiates trade deals that are often on the backs of America's farmers. Such and such a country does something wrong, so our wheat or soybean or corn or livestock producers can't export there. This gets old. Here's an opportunity to right those wrongs of the past and do something positive for American agriculture trade.

Let me tell you more about Minnesota farmers and their common

sense thinking on this issue:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects that in the next century, Asia will account for 75% of the growth in U.S. farm exports, 50% of this growth will be to China. China has 7 percent of the world's arable land to support 20% of the world's population. They need our food.

Nathan from the Corn Growers sitting right here in the front row told me that USDA projects China to be a net exporter of corn this year. Their high export subsidies allow them to offer cheap corn on the international market. This agreement will change that. It will allow the U.S. to export 177 million bushels of corn in the first year and China will have to drop export subsidies. Not only will our corn exports to China increase, but U.S. corn will be very competitive in markets that have been buying subsidized Chinese corn. This means about $3 billion to our corn producers. That's not pocket change.

Our pork producers think this is a pretty good deal, too. Chinese people consume far more pork than any other country, but right now its markets are practically closed. Minnesota pork is a highly competitive product, coveted around the world. When China joins the WTO, it will lower its tariffs on pork from 20 to 12%, with no quantity limits.

Minnesota is the nation's 3rd largest producer of soybeans, and China is the world's largest growth market for soybeans. According to the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, China's 1.3 billion people have a per capita consumption of only 4.75 lbs. of soybean oil annually. In Taiwan, the average per capita consumption is 47 lbs. If China's consumption were to grow to Taiwan's level, it would need almost 6.8 million metric tons more. That's equivalent to the oil in almost 105 million metric tons (3.86 billion bushels) of soybeans. That's 46% greater than the entire U.S. soybean crop in 1999.

And, the Chinese like to drink beer, and that's a good thing for our barley growers. Under this agreement the 30% tariff on barley will decrease to 10%. The U.S. Grains Council forecasts Chinese imports of malting barley will double to more than 91 million bushels in this decade. As the nation's 5th largest producer of barley, this market is critical to Minnesota.

And have you ever heard of the Chicken Council? Minnesota is the number one turkey producing state in the country and China is

the United States' largest export market for poultry. The Chicken Council and the Turkey Growers think that China could easily become a $1 billion market in a few years, if this agreement comes to fruition. Right now, poultry must go through Hong Kong. After PNTR, direct exports to China will be allowed. We grow 180,000 birds per day. Well, Minnesota's producers see the benefits of opening a market to one point two billion people who eat their product.

There have also been recent negotiations to open the market for fertilizer and I urge the negotiators to resolve this fertilizer issue now, so that Minnesota fertilizer companies can compete on an open, level playing field in the Chinese market.

There is a multiplier effect for agriculture. Supply and demand drives the market. China wants our poultry. We increase production of poultry, that in turn increases the demand for corn and soybeans to feed those birds. It also increases the processing needs here on American soil.

In summary, agriculture tariffs will be cut in half.

Second business cares.

I talked to the CEO of a Minnesota company called Pemstar. I know full well that this town is full of people who are glued to these phones. Well, Pemstar makes these. Now every time you make a call, you can think of Minnesota.

Pemstar recently hired 15 to 20 new workers in Minnesota just to support their growing operation in China.

They want to see this agreement happen because under WTO, China will totally get rid of its tariffs on many computer-related products.

This deal is about forging a relationship that spans the Pacific for the good of our economy.

It's about individual companies in Minnesota and around the nation who want to export because experience tells us that exports make for healthier companies.

Firms that export experience 20% faster employment growth than those that don't. They pay 13 18% higher wages and salaries and they provide 11% higher benefits than companies that don't export. These firms are 30 50% more productive because they are

leaner and more competitive, more innovative, and more technologically advanced.

Two hundred twenty-eight (228) Minnesota companies exported to China in 1997. Over half of these firms have less than 500 employees. We're talking about small and medium-sized companies here, not just big business.

Finally, why do everyday Americans care about this bold move?

Because, simply, it makes common sense.

Don't sell our citizens short. They know that the world is a small place in this high tech world.

Ordinary Americans probably don't pay a lot of attention to what happens in this Committee, or to what happens at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

Most normal people are too busy working, paying their bills, checking up on who their kids are talking to over the Internet and watching the NCAA basketball tournament to care about PNTR with China. But when they stop to think about it, and I challenge the American people to stop and think about it, I believe that they'd say "vote yes."

Why? Because people want a better life for their children. They want their kids to have access to better jobs than they have, and they want to see our economy continue to grow.

Improvements in China's economy also makes China a more stable part of the international community and opens their minds to our free market ideals and democratic values.

And to those who say this agreement is a problem for human rights, I ask you, whose human rights are you talking about? I met with a group of Chinese students who are studying at the University of Minnesota. Currently, our very own University of Minnesota has the largest population of Chinese students and scholars in the United States, numbering 1200. These students estimate that ninety-five percent of Chinese people back home want to see this happen.

Why? Because they want the ability to have access to our food, our technology, and our culture. China experienced one of the biggest famines in this century. More than 20 million people died in three years of famine. They remember what it was like to have

their market closed to outside sources of food.

We don't have to APPROVE of their human rights to help IMPROVE them. Opening their doors to our business practices, our culture, our democratic ideas will open their process.

The old way of dealing with China hasn't worked. Despite your yearly review, there are still human rights abuses in China. I think we can all agree that structural changes within China will be necessary to change China for the better in the long term. Year-to-year debates on how they're doing won't give us the structural changes that are needed inside China. If we slap their hand by putting restrictions on this agreement, we'll hurt China but we won't injure them. We might embarrass them, but we won't empower them to change.

The Chinese students at the University of Minnesota also told me their concerns. They know that this change to a free-market economy will not be easy. Reforms will be painful. But the Chinese people are willing to hurt in the short term because they know that this will benefit them greatly in the long term. The true judgment of this agreement will come in 10 or 20 years.

Finally, why should I, as Governor of Minnesota, care about this trade agreement?

Cause Minnesota is going global. And I don't want protectionist feelings in Congress to stand in the way of progress for Minnesota.

I can't speak for other states, but I can tell you that Minnesota is already a world competitor. Among nations, we would rank 28th in economic output in the world if we seceded from the Union. We have the guts and the confidence to compete on the world stage.

I urge you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, to take into consideration the opinions of the vast majority of middle Americans on this topic. The far right of the right and the far left of the left aren't going to be convinced. Don't waste your time.

If you don't forge ahead to open China's markets, rest assured the window of opportunity will be lost. The Europeans would like nothing better than for the U.S. Congress to continue fussing over this agreement. I urge you not to let that happen. Let America be the first in line to reap the benefits of this trade agreement. It's the most important step you can take to boost our economy in the

new millennium.

We don't have time to sit here and watch the world's partners go on trading without us. I've traveled the world in my prior life, and my trip to Japan since the election will be followed by a trip to China.

I've watched the world become smaller over the years, and I came to this job as Governor of Minnesota determined to leave my state positioned to seize the day.

Please help me by saying yes to China.

Thank you.

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Minnesota Senate Transportation Committee Hearing
February 2, 2000

Madam Chair and Members:

I know that this is not the way things are usually done. It's probably been a long time since a Minnesota Governor appeared before the Senate Transportation Committee. But this session represents an unusual opportunity for Minnesota's transportation future, and I'm here because I want you to know how important I think that is.

I also realize that in the Senate the hard work of crafting a transportation program is nothing new. You've been at it -- with little help -- for a long time. All of us who are concerned about a balanced transportation system serving Minnesota's future appreciate your efforts.

It's been over 15 years since a Governor led and proposed a balanced, statewide transportation plan. I'm changing that today.

It's time that we recognize the essential role transportation plays in our state's quality of life. The goals of our "Big Plan" for healthy and vital communities, for independence and self-reliance, for Minnesota's continuing success as a world competitor are all linked to a safe, efficient, reliable transportation system.

That's why I have proposed the plan you will hear about today, and ask that you join with me in making sure that this is the year that we finally stop talking about transportation and actually start doing something about transportation.

The plan I am proposing (and Commissioner Tinklenberg and Chair Mondale will be going over the details of it with you) has two parts.

The first fulfills my commitment to the voters that we will lower

the outrageous fees they pay for their automobile license tabs. Under my plan, starting July 1, 2000, no one would pay more than $75 for their car tabs. It is a tax cut equaling nearly $275 million in the first year. Let me say that again -- it is a tax cut -- and it makes sense. When you buy a fishing license you pay a flat rate no matter what kind of equipment you use. When you go hunting it's the same thing. But when you drive on a road you pay based on how expensive your truck or car is. This makes no sense. Especially when those who buy a more expensive car pay a proportionally higher sales tax fee at time of purchase.

Your action this session will set the state on a real road to progress in the next biennial budget. I propose that we transfer 100% of the motor vehicle excise tax to transportation uses. We'll let the people have a voice with a constitutional dedication of about half of the revenue. We'll let you have the voice on a statutory dedication of the rest. This is a permanent replacement for the tab reduction and provides new spending for transit and highways through a flexible, multi-modal fund.

It's what Minnesotans deserve as we make up for lost time and position ourselves for the next generation of investments.

A flexible fund will allow the Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council to find the best solutions to serve the people. As I said on January 10th, when we first announced "Moving Minnesota", the days of a highway-only transportation program are over. We have an obligation to provide a variety of transportation choices for Minnesotans. For seniors and disabled citizens to live independently . For workers from the inner city to get to suburban jobs. For goods from greater Minnesota to quickly move through the metropolitan area. This plan meets the challenge.

With this new flexibility comes responsibility. The days of transportation decisions and investments being made in isolation from land use and sound growth strategies are also over.

We are going to do everything we can to make sure that whether it's a new busway or a commuter rail line or an inter-regional corridor, improvements and investments will be tied to sound planning in partnership with the local communities to protect those investments and maximize their return long into the future. The goal - after all the investments are made - is to build healthy, vital communities. Transportation systems must be developed to serve that goal and not the other way around.

You know that there are those who want to use this session to

refight the light rail votes funded with not one but two super majority votes made during the last two sessions. One was under Republican Governor Arne Carlson and one under my administration. Now some are second-guessing. If this kind of backward effort is allowed to become the focus and succeeds in diverting us from the tremendous opportunity we have, it would truly be a shame. Let no one mistake my determination, I am absolutely committed to breaking the 20-year old LRT log jam that has produced millions of dollars in studies and not one foot of progress. And I'm confidant we will prevail - again. But its hard to imagine we can do both; that we can refight the LRT battle and give adequate attention to the major new transportation initiatives I've proposed in this short session. We will run the risk of losing the chance to move forward - to make a difference in Minnesota's transportation future. I hope you'll join with me in preventing that from happening. Together we can keep this year's debate about transportation positive, productive and focused forward.

Thank you for your interest and your time.

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Testimony before Congress on Milk Pricing June 24, 1999

Governor Jesse Ventura,
Congressional Testimony on HR 1402: Milk Pricing
before the Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture,
House Committee on Agriculture
June 24, 1999, Room 1300 Longworth House Office Building

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Peterson, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of Minnesota dairy farmers, the people who process and bring their dairy products to market and every single one of us who drinks and eats dairy products every single day.

I've come to Washington, D.C. with one thing on my mind, and one thing only:

It is imperative that Congress reform policies across the board so American farmers -- including Minnesota farmers -- can compete with each other here at home, and with farmers in nations around the world, on a fair, open and level playing field.

As a new Governor, I've dedicated myself to learning as much as I can about agriculture as urgently as possible because our State is so dependent upon agribusiness for our economic health.

In Minnesota, we are doing everything we can to provide short term relief and long-term competitive advantages to our farmers. I believe that government should only do that which individuals cannot do for themselves, and far too often government intrudes attempting to "fix" something only to make matters much, much worse.

To that end, I have asked six departments to work together as a "Farm Cabinet": Agriculture; Trade & Economic Development; Revenue; Finance; Pollution Control Agency and Commerce to identify what stands in the way of farmers being successful and

self-sufficient.

I want Minnesota farmers to be the most productive, the most innovative and the fastest to adapt to change so that they can compete worldwide.

Whatever we can do at the State level, I am pledged to do over the next three and a half years. Yet, time and again, I hear that what really stands in the way are two things: federal policy and partisan politics.

I hear despair in the voices of every farmer I talk with -- those who are still successfully surviving in this changing economy and those who are giving up.

I hear exasperation in the voices of leaders of farm associations, multi-national corporations, and cooperatives -- who are tired of waiting for leadership.

And I hear anger in the voices of Minnesotans on mainstreets, in rural schools, and everywhere else I go because they, too, want a new direction. With one out of four people in my state depending on agriculture for their living, that's a lot of angry voices.

Minnesotans care deeply about farm issues, including me.

It's time to end two-party partisan deadlocks on Farm Bills and focus on results for the people. Washington needs to stop using the farmer as a political pawn. Every day, three dairy farms go out of business -- nearly one-third of all Minnesota dairy farms have disappeared since 1993. Across the nation, HALF of all the dairy farms lost in the last seven years were from the Upper Midwest.

I was very interested in the testimony of Congressman Green (of Wisconsin), who described the impact on the dairy industry in his state. Wisconsin's license plate says, "America's Dairy Land," and I wonder what they will change it to if something is not done soon.

I don't mean to suggest that this is entirely due to federal policies, but the outdated federal milk marketing order system has been a contributing factor. That is unacceptable and warrants action by this subcommittee to begin reform at the earliest possible time.

The issue before this subcommittee today is a significant issue, but, still, a detail of a much bigger picture for American agriculture that will be addressed in the Millenium Round of

Trade Negotiations in Seattle.

Soon you will vote on whether to support Option 1A or Option 1B for a pricing structure. It goes without saying that Option 1B, which represents modest reform by the United States Department of Agriculture, is the only of the two choices that Minnesota will accept.

The people are best served by getting rid of all of this government intrusion into the free marketplace and channeling the energy now put into controlling prices into opening world markets. Nothing you can do in this room today will permanently improve the lives of farmers or the taste of milk except improving world trade conditions.

What we need, without question, is to end the nonsense that has the price of milk tied to how far away the cow is from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Now that there are refrigerated trucks readily available, it makes sense to abandon 50-year-old thinking and find a new way to look at the "millenium" dairy industry. One that reflects today's economic realities and is at least fair.

Last week, I began promoting Beaumont, Texas as the new center of the dairy universe, and I offer it to you today to consider. It certainly beats Eau Claire for mileage from St. Paul. My staff did some checking and was advised, after a pause on the other end of the phone, that there aren't any dairy cows in Beaumont. A little checking on the Internet showed that Minnesota dairy farmers would receive 1,100 miles worth of benefit from this move. For the record, New Hampshire is 1,800 miles away from Beaumont, and California beats us all with 2,000.

If this sounds borderline ridiculous, it is no more so than the original law that designated proximity to Eau Claire, which is only 83 miles from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Congress is inexcusably inconsistent in pushing for deregulation of other parts of agriculture, but not dairy. If market forces are good enough for corn and wheat, why not cows? I truly believe that the people of this country are waiting for common sense to take hold out here.

Regional political maneuvers like compacts are the worst approach to take. This serves to do nothing more than solidify caucus voting on policies such as the one before you today, and place at a terrible disadvantage the elected representatives of states like Minnesota who will never have the votes to launch genuine

reform.

Regional favoritism also erodes public trust in government and makes people cynical about government. If there is one reason why I am sitting before you today, as the first Reform Governor in the United States of America, it is because the great center of the voting public is weary of politics and business as usual. The public is fatigued with a farm crisis that never ends. The farmers who I talk with are fed up. Every year, it's a tweak here, another tweak there -- take what you can get because it's better than nothing -- Option A or Option B.

Minnesotans, as I've said before, are best served by "Option C -- None of the Above" -- and the beginning of a truly free-market new day in agriculture.

What "reform" principles will help not just Minnesota, but all farmers in America?

Reform Number 1 starts at home: It is the responsibility of the members of Congress and the President to deliver a new kind of level playing field across America -- one that allows the free market to work through the absence of artificial price supports.

Minnesota dairy farmers are losing money, plain and simple. And they will lose more under the status quo pricing system. I'm here today, in person, to appeal to your better judgment.

Three years ago, Congress left dairy policy out of the 1996 Farm Bill and dumped it on the Secretary of Agriculture.

Secretary Glickman has come up with a plan that tries to correct some of these 50-year-old problems and it deserves your support. I urge you today to support the recommendations of the Administration and decide if you wish to be full participants in this discussion from this point forward.

- We need to work as a unified nation to fund land-grant research that is available to any innovative farmer or entrepreneur through a federally-supported Extension system.
- We need to work as a unified nation to abandon the cobweb of price subsidies and controls and let American ingenuity work on farms, in processing, and in the grocery stores.
- Finally, we need to work as a unified nation to give incentives for farmers to be flexible and adapt to changes. Your efforts to save small farmers aren't working. HALF of all the dairy farmers lost in the last seven years were from

the Upper Midwest. Even with the Dairy Compact in the northeast states, most of Vermont's losses are herds with fewer than 100 cows. So it's time, ladies and gentlemen, for a fresh approach.

Reform Number Two is International: It is your responsibility to open the world markets by insisting that the free market work instead of direct and indirect subsidies, and then speak with one voice for the American farmer worldwide. This task is made all the more powerful if you allow farmers to sit at the table at the upcoming Seattle Trade Talks and other places where their future is at stake.

I believe that all people the world over respond best to policies that provide incentives, not punishments. We can no longer afford for the federal government to use food as a weapon. Instead of sanctions, our President should jump on a trade mission to SELL, and pack some dairy products in his suitcase before he leaves.

Mutual opening of markets is a win-win for America and the trade partners; mutual protectionism is a lose-lose for everybody. It is the responsibility of each State to make the best of trade opportunities once they are open. That's why I'm going to Japan in November, and have my commissioners of Agriculture and Trade & Economic Development looking for other marketing opportunities. But our efforts -- and other states' efforts -- will fall short if federal trade policies with Asia and Europe fail.

American farmers need their American congressional members to be bold reformers in order to pressure an end to unfair subsidies in Europe and elsewhere.

Reform Number Three is Specific to Dairy: Vote to let USDA go forward with its reform plan. As with all federal farm policy, a person needs a graduate degree in at least four subjects to understand the complexities of the issue. And dairy is the most complicated of the complicated.

As Governor, it's my job to appoint the best people and then let them do their job. Commissioner Gene Hugoson advises that this is the better of the two for a dairy-producing state such as ours that is not protected by a compact.

Our ultimate objective is to ensure a competitive marketplace for our farmers. A strong farm economy serves the public good of this nation. Therefore, I appreciate your support for this testimony today, and I appreciate this time before the subcommittee. As I

say often in Minnesota, I'm here for results ... not politics. Thank you.

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Workforce Reorganization

Prepared for Minnesota House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

March 22, 2001

HF1859, as introduced, outlines the major elements of the Governor's workforce reorganization plans. The goals of this reorganization, per the Governor's press release on March 1, 2001, are threefold:

1.Building the best workforce possible;

2.Strategically linking the state's investments in economic and workforce development;

3.Aggressively developing partnerships with the business and nonprofit sectors.

Numerous studies and task forces during the past several years have identified a need to consolidate governance, funding, and service delivery for many employment-related programs. Further, current demographic analysis suggests that Minnesota will continue to face labor shortages for then next few decades. To keep Minnesota businesses competitive and Minnesota personal incomes rising, Governor Ventura is proposing a reorganization of the three state agencies with primary responsibility for serving employers and workers.

Summary of HF1859

The reorganization would result in two agencies emerging: a new Department of Economic and Workforce Development (DEWD) and a reconstituted Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). DEWD would deliver programs and services for adults and youth including training and job placement assistance under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board,

and the apprenticeship program currently in DLI. DEWD would also likely administer business assistance, trade, and tourism programs currently housed in the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED). The Unemployment Insurance program is slated to move to DLI and the Energy Assistance program would move to the Department of Commerce.

HF1859 suggests that a workforce transition team be put in place appointed by the Governor to make a full report by March 15, 2002 advising the Legislature and the Governor on the transfer of other programs not specified in the legislation as well as other details regarding the implementation of the reorganization as described. HF1859 sets an effective date of July 1, 2002 for the final transfer of all programs and the implementation of the reorganization.

Issues to be considered

In discussion of HF1859 and related bills introduced in the Legislature, the key questions to be resolved include:

- What is the timing of the transition? What, if any, pieces can be accomplished sooner rather than later?
- How will the Legislature and other stakeholders be involved in the transition after the 2001 session ends?
- What is the best configuration of agencies and programs? Can that question be answered fully before the 2001 legislative session ends?
- What governance changes need to be made in support of this reorganization at the state and local/regional levels?

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Campaign Finance Reform

Governor's remarks on Campaign Finance
Open and Accountable Campaigns
181 State Office Building
Tuesday, March 6, 2001

I am very pleased to join members from all four caucuses of the legislature to announce our support for a campaign finance reform package this session.

In the 2000 elections we saw candidates, political parties, and special interest groups pour unprecedented amounts of money into our elections.

- Between 1992 and 2000, political party and caucus spending in Minnesota increased by 413% to $17.8 million dollars.
- Independent expenditures by parties and caucuses went from $308 dollars in 1996 to $2.9 million dollars in 2000.
- Independent expenditures made by outside groups is also escalating. In one 2000 legislative race, outside interest groups spent over $310,000 dollarsabout 12 times a candidate's spending limit for a House seat.

This spending is just a glimpse of what we'll see in future campaign cycles. Why? Because money wins elections, buys political power, and preserves the status quo.

We are headed down a very dangerous path. Unless serious campaign finance reform is passed this session, we can expect special interest spending to undercut candidates' campaigns and the tone of our campaigns to grow more negative and less focused on issues that matter to Minnesotans.

If we hope to re-engage citizens in our political process, we must give candidates more control over their campaigns, level the playing

field between challengers and incumbents, and focus on real issues not 30-second sound-bytes.

While Minnesota is doing a lot of things right, we must address some of the flaws in our system. My Administration's goals for campaign finance reform are quite simple. I want to:

- Allow citizens a stronger voice in campaigns by doubling the amount they are able to claim as a contribution refund from the state
- Give candidates the public money when they need itright after the primary
- Provide better citizen access to campaign finance information, and
- Give candidates the tools to respond to independent expenditures that are made against them in the final days of an election cycle.

Doubling the amount citizens are able to claim as a political contribution refund from $50 to $100 dollars will allow citizens to show their support for a candidate or political party. It also forces candidates to work for their public subsidy by convincing voters that they are the right person for the job.

In Minnesota, legislative and constitutional officer candidates are currently given public funds following the general election if they receive a certain percentage of the total vote in that election. This financing mechanism forces many candidates to take out loans to cover campaign expenses until after the election when they receive the public subsidy.

This is unfair to challengers since many incumbents have built-up a sizeable war chest over several election cycles. Some candidates, particularly challengers, have difficulty securing the loan even if they demonstrate a certain level of support. As a candidate for Governor, 22 banks turned me down before I was able to find one that would give me a loan.

I support changing the timing of these direct payments to candidates. Minnesota candidates who sign a spending limit agreement, raise the appropriate level of qualifying contributions, and have the nomination of a major political party should receive their public subsidies after the primary election.

This common sense change will help level the playing field by putting viable challengers in a position to run competitive campaigns.

It's also time for state campaign finance information to be available on-line to provide easy and timely citizen access to this information.

Campaign expenditures and contributions are public information. But in many states, including Minnesota, this data is not available on the Internet. Putting this information on-line will help bring government back to the people by giving them the tools they need to made good decisions about who they want representing them.

That one's a no-brainer.

Finally, empowering candidates to respond to independent expenditures that are made against them in the final weeks of an election is critical.

The current barrage of negative and misleading ads and mailings in the final week or two of the election is unfair to the candidates and to the people they seek to represent.

Candidates in competitive races are taken by surprise and most often don't have the time or resources to respond to inaccurate claims.

We must give candidates the ability to respond to these independent expenditures and to set the record straight. Then voters will have all the facts and can make an informed choice at the ballot box.

By working with the legislature to accomplish these goals, we will ensure that any person interested in elected office can run a competitive campaign and be judged on the issues rather than the size of his or her pocketbook. And if we take the next step by going to a single legislative session every two years, we will free candidates from running non-stop campaigns and let them focus on issues that matter to their constituents.

I look forward to signing a bill this session that will encourage more open and accountable campaigns.

Now I'll turn it over to Sen. Hottinger and Rep. Haas, two key supporters in the Legislature, to say a few words.

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Single Session

Single Session Reform

The Governor supports a constitutional amendment that would have the Legislature meet only once each biennium in regular session. He proposes moving consideration of the capital budget from even-numbered years, as is current practice, to odd-numbered years, coinciding with adoption of the biennial budget. The Governor is also prepared to adjourn *sine die* this year and is advancing a $504 million 2001 Capitol Budget in conjunction with the single session initiative. The Governor's support for a capital budget bill this year depends on the Legislature adjourning *sine die* at the end of the 2001 session.

Flexible Sessions

The Minnesota Legislature has met in session every year since the passage of a 1972 constitutional amendment allowing "flexible sessions." This change was intended to:

- Allow for more thoughtful consideration of major policy and budget issues;
- Avoid end-of-session logjams;
- Allow brief consideration of unfinished business from the previous year; and
- Avoid costly special sessions.

Unfortunately, the result has been just the opposite. Since flexible sessions began, we have seen a proliferation of bill introductions, more session days, longer sessions, continued end-of-session logjams, and more permanent growth in state spending. The 1999-2000 Legislature, for the first time in history, passed more laws in the second year of the biennium (251) than in the first year (250).

But the effects of annual sessions reach far beyond the legislature. State agencies and local units of government must devote more and more of their staff time and resources to covering hearings, leaving less and less time to do the work the legislature sends them home

to do. However, annual sessions have been a boon for lobbyists as their work has evolved, in many cases, from a part-time effort to a full-time profession.

It's time to evaluate whether our investment in annual sessions, in time, effort and financial resources, is producing desired results. If it's not, then we should recognize the shortcomings of our current process and change the way we conduct the State's business.

"When reform clearly doesn't work I think we should have the courage to recognize it."

--Governor Jesse Ventura, State of the State 2001

Why change to a single legislative session each biennium?

It's quite clear that our current situation is not what was originally intended when the people passed the constitutional amendment allowing for flexible sessions. If the voters approved an amendment to return to a single session, the benefits would be considerable and far-reaching.

- The operation and capital budget could be considered together, ensuring comprehensive spending decisions.
- Business, advocacy groups and state and local government could spend less time at the capitol and more time doing the jobs the legislature wants them to do.
- Legislators could spend more time in their districts, and could truly become part-time legislators again, opening up the job to more candidates who currently just can't afford to leave their jobs for 4-5 months a year.
- And limiting the amount of time spent in session is likely to help control state spending, removing the temptation for lawmakers to add to the budget they just passed months before.

A single session advances the Governor's belief in an accountable, responsive and limited government. This proposal also reinforces the Ventura Administration's budget principles by reforming the legislative process to encourage the Legislature and the Governor to set a responsible budget and live within it.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, December 4, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

The magnitude of the current and future deficit in Minnesota is staggering.

Clearly, the tough decisions can no longer be delayed.

Spending must be further cut and legislators must finally face up to a tax system that is out of sync with the times.

Two years ago I proposed that we radically change our tax system to reflect our changing economy.

Like most states, Minnesota's tax system is based on a 1950 manufacturing economy and not on a modern service-oriented economy.

While the legislature ignored my sales tax reforms two years ago - and my budget balancing solutions this year - (the chickens have come home to roost), it is now imperative that they act, and act responsibly, in order to ensure the long-range fiscal stability of our state.

While the responsibility to propose change is up to the new governor and the new legislature, ultimately the power is with the people.

Over the past four years my administration was able to bring about reforms that provided citizens with greater control of taxing decisions at the local level.

These difficult times will test people's willingness to exercise that power.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



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For immediate release:
Monday, November 25, 2002

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Live Music the First Three Thursdays in December

What: The Governor's Residence is beautifully decorated for its annual Holiday Open House. Everyone is invited to stop by to enjoy some holiday music, and have a cookie and apple cider.

When: Thursday, December 5 at 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- 3:00 - 4:00 Apple Valley H. S. Brass Choir (Boyd Perkins, director)
- 4:00 - 5:00 Partners in Praise Girls Choir (Julia Fahey, director)
  Thursday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 3:00 - 3:30 Champlin Park H. S. Brass Quintet (Steve Lyons, director)
- 3:30 - 4:00 Hastings H. S. Brass Quintet (Robert Casperson, director)
- 4:00 - 5:00 Robbinsdale/Armstrong H. S. Choral Ensemble (Stephanie Trump, director)
  Thursday, December 19 at 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
- 3:00 - 3:30 Apple Valley East View H.S. Choir (Judy Sagen, director)
- 3:45 - 4:15 Hasting H.S. Vocal Jazz Chorale (Kathleen Hanson, director)
- 4:15 - 5:00 Mahtomedi H.S. Choir (Rob Pontes, director)

Where: Governor's Residence, 1006 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 8, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JACK ULDRICH ACTING DIRECTOR OF MINNESOTA PLANNING

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Jack Uldrich as Acting Director of Minnesota Planning. Uldrich replaces Dean Barkley, who was appointed to fill the remaining U.S. Senate term of Paul Wellstone. Uldrich had served as Barkley's deputy director, and has just returned from a leave of absence during which he was the campaign director for Tim Penny's gubernatorial bid.

Uldrich previously worked as a naval intelligence officer, a presidential management fellow with the U.S. Department of Defense, the executive director of the Concord Coalition and a trade association executive.

He is a graduate of Drake University and received his masters in public administration at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

In 1996, Uldrich was the Republican and Reform Party candidate for Congress in Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District. He is the author of *The Gibraltar Conspiracy*, a political thriller about an independent candidate who runs for the White House. He is married and has two children.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 28, 2002

U.S. FLAGS TO BE FLOWN HALF-STAFF THROUGH TUESDAY TO HONOR SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura requests that all U.S. flags on state facilities in Minnesota be flown at half-staff and remain so through Tuesday, October 29, 2002. This is in accordance with the flag procedure at the U.S. Capitol Building, which is honoring Senator Paul Wellstone.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 25, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

Today the State of Minnesota has suffered a deep and penetrating loss. With all of us suffering from the numbing experiences of our nation's recent tragedies, this loss seems especially cruel.

For those of us who knew and worked with Senator Wellstone, his dedication to his state and nation was profound. His energy, his passion, and his love of people were overwhelming.

For us to lose Paul Wellstone as a leader and a person is devastating, but for us to lose Sheila, Marcia and his dedicated staff members makes our already heavy hearts even sadder.

But we must be strong. And to be strong we only need to remember Paul Wellstone's energy, Paul Wellstone's integrity, Paul Wellstone's absolute love of his country, the people he represented, his friends, and most of all his family.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota, the members of my administration and my family, I want to say that Paul Wellstone will long be remembered as the great man he was. In his honor I have ordered state flags to be flown at half- staff now through the election.

Finally, I had tremendous respect for Paul, and I will forever be indebted to him for his service and his ultimate sacrifice for this great democracy.

Thank you.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 25, 2002

SENATOR WELLSTONE HONORED WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that state flags at all state buildings in Minnesota be flown at half-staff immediately and remain so through November 5, 2002, in honor of the tragic death of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone. In accordance with the Federal Flag Code, Governor Ventura requests that all U.S. flags in the state be flown at half-staff and remain so through Saturday, October 26, 2002.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 25, 2002

POSTPONED
SATURDAY'S HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE AT GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE DELAYED

(St. Paul) First Lady Terry Ventura has asked that tomorrow's annual Pre-Halloween Open House at the Governor's Residence be postponed, due to the tragic death of Senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, his daughter, staff members and pilots. The Halloween Open House will be rescheduled, but the new date has not been determined.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, October 10, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BELL TO BOARD OF REGENTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Peter Bell to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Bell replaces Michael O'Keefe, who announced his resignation from the Board on Monday.

Bell has worked at the Hazelden Foundation for the past three years. He directs the publishing division, a $20 million organization that provides more than 2,500 products to a customer base of more than 100,000. Before that, he was executive vice president of Corporate Community Relations at TCF Financial Corporation in Minneapolis for five years, where he supervised bank audit, compliance and foundation activities.

"I've known Peter for several years now, and he is outstanding," said Governor Ventura. "He has worked for big, complex organizations and done an excellent job of getting to the heart of the matter."

Bell co-founded the Institute for Black Chemical Abuse in Minneapolis and has become nationally recognized for his work in the chemical dependency area of the African-American community. He has served on a commission to the White House Conference on a Drug-Free America and a national commission on drug-free schools. Bell has also been on the board of directors for several organizations, including the Citizens League, Center for the American Experiment, Minnesota Council on Foundations and the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund.

"Peter understands the workforce needs of our state," said Governor Ventura. "He's also very fiscally responsible and will ask the tough questions about how money is spent. He is a leader and an innovator and I know the 'U' will be in good hands while he is a Regent."

Bell has a bachelor or arts degree in social service administration

from Metro State University in St. Paul. He and his wife Sharon Bottorff have two teenage children.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, October 10, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA ON THE OCTOBER ECONOMIC UPDATE

Just over ten months ago, in my state of the state address, I delivered some very bad news to the people of Minnesota.

I warned that over the next two years, based on careful study of key economic data, the State of Minnesota would collect almost $2 billion dollars less in taxes and fees.

I then laid out a responsible long-term plan to solve the problem. It was not easy, but I made the difficult choices.

Incredibly, I was immediately criticized by legislative leaders for having the courage to actually address the problem.

The Republican and Democrat leaders of the House and Senate began a campaign of deception, deceit, and demagoguery that has lasted to this very day.

I am standing before you, today, to tell you what I told you ten months ago:

The State of Minnesota is in a fiscal crisis of tremendous proportions.

It is a crisis that is projected to reach a deficit as large as $3.2 billion dollars.

It is a crisis that could have been mitigated by responsible legislative action, but wasn't.

It is a crisis that doesn't get any easier to solve this January than it was last January.

To solve this crisis it will take more than a hiring freeze, more than a freeze on professional and technical contracts with private

companies, more than the closing down of existing state services, more than simply increasing revenues and more than the shifting, borrowing and scheming tactics used by legislative leaders earlier this year.

It is a crisis that will have to be shared by all levels of government and all the people.

It is a crisis that will mobilize special interest and fill this capitol with high priced lobbyists begging legislators and the next administration to spare their programs.

And therefore it is a crisis that needs courageous, determined and *truthful* leadership from state and local elected officials as well as the people of Minnesota.

We can no longer tolerate the politics of avoidance.

Of course, today, like ten months ago, legislative leaders will respond to this update with vague promises and claims that these projections are nothing more than political manipulation.

To that I say this: You were wrong in January and you are wrong now.

This economic update is not some political ploy intended to bring focus on election campaign, it is an objective confirmation that our fiscal crisis is not going to get better in November, February or a year from now.

It is confirmation that ten months ago your legislative leaders took you for a ride on a promise that *"things will get better."*

Well, unfortunately it should be *plain as day* that our economy is not recovering as well as some hoped and *"things are not getting better."*

Thank you.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, October 1, 2002

STATE TO HONOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEPUTY WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that state flags at all state buildings in Minnesota be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Wednesday, October 2, to honor St. Louis County Sheriff's Deputy Bradley A. Anderson. Anderson was killed in the line of duty when his squad car was involved in a traffic accident while responding to a call on Labor Day weekend.

In making the proclamation, the governor noted that the death is the first on-duty traffic fatality in the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department over the past 30 years, and praised Deputy Anderson's years of public service and his persistence in pursuing cases.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, October 1, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Douglas Weiszhaar acting commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Weiszhaar succeeds Elwyn Tinklenberg, whose last day is Friday.

"Obviously we're going to miss El," Governor Ventura said. "He ensured that Minnesota made huge strides in transportation. But as we transition to a new administration, I look forward to working with Doug. He's helped solve transportation issues all over the state and he knows his stuff."

Weiszhaar has been deputy commissioner/chief engineer at Mn/DOT since July, 1999. Before that he spent 23 years as assistant county engineer in Otter Tail County and as county engineer in Chisago and Stearns counties. He began his career at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

He is president of the Minnesota Surveyors & Engineers Society, president of the Minnesota Transportation Alliances and chair of the Research Council on Transportation Infrastructure for the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies.

Weiszhaar graduated from South Dakota State University with a B.S. in civil engineering. He and his wife Nancy have two children, both of whom are attending college in Minnesota.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, October 1, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING REVENUE COMMISSIONER

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Dennis Erno acting commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Erno succeeds Matt Smith, whose last day is Friday.

"Matt Smith has been a cornerstone of my administration, and we couldn't have had major tax reform without his work," Governor Ventura said. "Fortunately, Dennis Erno has been right there with him the entire time and provided excellent leadership throughout the department."

Erno has been deputy commissioner since March, 1999. Before that he was director of the department's MinnesotaCare Tax Division, which administers the MinnesotaCare tax on health care providers. Erno also served 14 years as assistant commissioner, overseeing several of the department's divisions. He began at Revenue in 1970 as a research analyst.

Erno has provided testimony to the Minnesota Legislature on many state and local government tax issues, and has helped develop legislation for reforms of sales, property, income, minerals and gambling taxes.

He has a B.S. in business administration and political science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He also served in the United States Naval Service.

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For immediate release:
Monday, September 12, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA CALLS SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT NOON

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura said today he will call a special session of the Minnesota Legislature for next Thursday, September 19, at noon to deal with disaster relief for Roseau and other areas hit by floods this year. Governor Ventura made his decision after meeting with legislative leaders earlier today. House Speaker Steve Sviggum, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Governor Ventura agreed to a flood relief package totaling $32.4 million.

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For immediate release:
Monday, September 9, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA SEEKS APOLOGY FROM BUSH ADMINISTRATION

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura said today that President Bush and Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Otto Reich owe an apology to him, First Lady Terry Ventura, and American business leaders that will be traveling to Cuba for a U.S. Food and Agribusiness Exhibition in Havana.

Over the weekend Reich was quoted in several newspapers criticizing Ventura and U.S. business leaders for attending the exhibition while Cuba is under the control of communism and President Fidel Castro.

In addition, Reich was also quoted as saying he hoped Ventura and the business leaders would not engage in "sexual tourism" while visiting Cuba. "I found Assistant Secretary Reich's comments offensive and at the very least he and President Bush owe my wife and children a personal apology," Ventura said today.

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For immediate release:
Monday, September 9, 2002

STATE TO OBSERVE PATRIOT DAY WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that state flags at all state buildings in Minnesota be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset Wednesday, September 11, to honor the people who died in last year's terrorist attacks.

The proclamation coincides with President Bush's declaration of September 11th as Patriot Day, and his order to fly U.S. flags at half-staff.

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For immediate release:
Friday, September 6, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES $500,000 FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT TO CITY OF ROSEAU

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced a $500,000 grant to the City of Roseau to assist with the city's continuing flood recovery and protection activities. The grant, which comes from existing resources within the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED), will allow the city to install backflow protection in the city's storm and sanitary sewer systems and pumping stations.

The governor said from the start of this year's flood events, the administration has been engaged in a continuing effort to identify and tap existing resources to assist in the recovery efforts in the stricken communities. He said this grant would provide both immediate and future flood protection for the people of Roseau, and that the backflow protection will become an essential component of a larger long-term flood protection project.

"The key is to figure out the best way to rebuild these towns so something like this never happens again to aim for full and long-term recovery, not just a quick fix. And then we have to find the dollars to do it", Governor Ventura said.

He said the administration stands ready and willing to work with leaders in the House and Senate to reach a consensus on how to provide aid to devastated communities in northwestern and central Minnesota. The governor also said he will call a special legislative session when legislative and administration negotiators agree on a specific plan and how to pay for it.

"I'll say it again: We'll have a special session when we're ready to take meaningful action," Governor Ventura said. "But the session must be focused on a clear and realistic plan of action."

The governor also said he welcomes today's proposal by House

Republicans in Roseau and a similar proposal last week by Senator Roger Moe calling for a solution to the devastation of this year's flooding. And he said he will continue working with legislators to reach an agreement on how to proceed before calling the Legislature into special session.

"We know the only way a special session can succeed is if the administration, along with representatives of both the House and Senate, can come together to identify and agree on specific proposals," Governor Ventura said. "It's important to get this done right."

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For immediate release:
Friday, September 6, 2002

****UPDATED****

GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY TO LEAD MINNESOTA 9/11 MEMORIAL AT STATE CAPITOL

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura, First Lady Terry Ventura

What: Leading State Capitol memorial commemorating 9/11/01 terrorist attacks

Where: State Capitol Mall, St. Paul

When: Wednesday, September 11, 2002
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

"Minnesota Remembers: One Year Later"

Governor Jesse Ventura and First Lady Terry Ventura will lead a State of Minnesota memorial at the State Capitol commemorating the tragic events of September 11, 2001 *(see agenda below)*. The event, titled **"Minnesota Remembers: One Year Later,"** will be open to state employees and members of the public. Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Eugene Andreotti will act as master of ceremonies. Events will include the dedication of an elm tree on State Capitol grounds, remarks by the governor and first lady, the presentation of the flag by members of Minnesota's National Guard, an a cappella performance of the National Anthem, a performance by the Minnesota National Guard Band, and the reading of a proclamation. Copies of the proclamation, which proclaims September 11, 2002 as "Minnesota Remembers Day," will be displayed next to the newly planted elm tree. Those attending the memorial will be encouraged to sign the proclamation, which will be given to the Minnesota Historical Society.

In addition, as a moment of commemoration and remembrance, the governor is asking all Minnesota communities to ring their church bells at exactly 7:46 a.m. on September 11 for one minute, followed by a moment of silence. Then, throughout the day, Minnesotans are asked to drive with their headlights on in recognition of Minnesota's first responders - the police, fire and emergency response personnel who put their lives on the line to keep Minnesota safe.

The memorial event was coordinated with the assistance of numerous volunteers and donors. The elm tree to be planted on the capitol grounds was donated by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association. The tree was

grown by Minnesota Valley Landscaping.

The National Anthem will be performed by vocalist Holly Collison (http://www.hollycollison.com), a local artist who studied at Northwestern University and the Eastman School of Music. She has appeared in productions including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Hello Dolly,* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety also played key roles in the planning of the event.

"Minnesota Remembers: One Year Later" Agenda:

7:00 a.m. Minnesota National Guard Band performs while participants gather on Capitol Mall on south side of state capitol building

7:35 a.m. Opening remarks by Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Eugene Andreotti (there will be an F-16 flyover at exactly 7:35 a.m.)

7:38 a.m. Presentation of the flag by members of Minnesota National Guard

7:41 a.m. National Anthem performed by vocalist Holly Collison

7:46 a.m. Bell tolling in commemoration of the first plane crash

7:47 a.m. Moment of silence

7:48 a.m. "Amazing Grace" performed by bagpiper Mike Breidenbach

7:50 a.m. Governor Jesse Ventura and First Lady Terry Ventura offer remarks

8:00 a.m. Elm tree dedication

8:05 a.m. Proclamation signing

8:10 a.m. Minnesota National Guard band performs while memorial attendees sign proclamations

Media
A press riser will be available near the podium where the General, Governor and First Lady will be speaking.

Parking
Public parking will be available in the following metered lots around the Capitol Complex:

Lot D - located north of the State Office Building,

Lot Q - located at the corner of Sherburne and Cedar,

Lot K - located at the corner of 12th St. and Cedar,

Centennial Parking Ramp (the orange level) - located behind Centennial Office Building (658 Cedar Avenue). Enter off Constitution Avenue



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, August 28, 2002

GOVERNOR & LT. GOVERNOR HOST ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARDS

Who:
Governor Jesse Ventura, Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk and Acts of Kindness Award winners: Patty Wetterling (St. Joseph), Beverly Collyard (White Bear Lake), Greg Martz (White Bear Lake), Jack Leigh Halvorson (Mahtowa), Sheldon Tveit (Warroad), Doris Petrovich (Minneapolis), Bianca Ward (Hugo) and representatives from the Crisis Connection (Richfield).

When:
Thursday, August 29, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

Where:
Governor's Residence (rear patio)
1006 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

What:
The 2002 Governor's Acts of Kindness Awards are a way to honor volunteers who have demonstrated excellence and initiative in making life better for an individual, group, neighborhood, organization or town. This year awards are being presented in eight categories: Achievement, Business, Good Neighbor, Heroism, Leadership, Organization, Senior and Student.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 26, 2002

MEXICO MOVING TOWARD OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN MINNESOTA

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura and Consul General Carlos Sada of the Mexican Consulate in Chicago announced today that they are working together to establish official consular representation in Minnesota in the near future.

The options under consideration range from the appointment of an honorary consul to the opening of a full consular office. Even with a consular presence in the state, Minnesota would remain under the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Chicago.

The Ventura administration has actively encouraged the establishment of a permanent consular presence in Minnesota, and the effort gained momentum following the Governor's trade mission to Mexico in October 2000.

"Mexico is not only one of our most important export destinations, it is our good friend, and this is a sign that we're both committed to strengthening and growing that friendship," said Governor Ventura.

The decision to establish a permanent Mexican consular presence in the state also reflects the rapidly growing number of residents of Mexican heritage living in Minnesota, which is an estimated 95,000 in 2000. Consular services include documentation and legal assistance for Mexican citizens residing in the United States, visa assistance and travel information for U.S. citizens, and the promotion of cultural and trade activities between the United States and Mexico.

Governor Ventura met with the consul general and a 23-member delegation from the Mexican state of Colima, the largest group from Mexico to visit the state since the Governor's trade mission. Led by Governor Fernando Moreno Peqa, the delegation is promoting trade, tourism and friendship with Minnesota. Prior to the meeting, Rogelio Rueda Sanchez, mayor of the city of Manzanillo, signed a sister city agreement with St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly.

"The Government of Mexico applauds the interest of both Governor Ventura and Mayor Kelly to recognize the contributions of the Mexican community to the economic and cultural richness of Minnesota. For us, it is very important to strengthen our links to your great state," said Consul General Sada.

Minnesota companies sold $363 million in manufactured goods to Mexico in 2001, making the nation the state's eighth-largest export market.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 23, 2002

GOVERNOR TO MEET WITH MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura and Consul General Carlos Sada of the Mexican Consulate in Chicago will meet on Monday to discuss their intention to work together toward establishing official consular representation in Minnesota in the near future.

Several options are being considered, ranging from the appointment of an honorary consul to the opening of a full consular office. Minnesota currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Consulate General in Chicago, and would retain that jurisdiction under the various options being considered.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at 11:15 a.m. at the Capitol. The governor and the consul general are expected to make remarks following the meeting.

The governor will also meet with a 23-member delegation from the Mexican state of Colima led by Governor Fernando Moreno Peqa. The delegation is promoting trade, tourism and friendship with Minnesota. The group arrived on August 24, and will be in Minnesota until August 28.

The Colima/Manzanillo delegation is the largest group of Mexican officials to visit Minnesota following Governor Ventura's trade mission to Mexico in October of 2000. Their agenda includes visits to 3M, Ecolab, the Mall of America, the University of Minnesota, the University of St. Thomas, and the Burrito Mercado Restaurant on St. Paul's West Side.

Prior to the meeting with Governor Ventura, Mayor Rueda and St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly will sign a Sister-City Friendship Agreement at the St. Paul City Hall.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 23, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING FINANCE COMMISSIONER

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Anne Barry acting commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Finance. Barry succeeds Pamela Wheelock, who resigned to become Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Minnesota Wild. Barry takes over in September.

"We're really going to miss Pam," Governor Ventura said. "She has been a cornerstone of my administration. But in the transition to a new administration, I look forward to working with Anne. She has 14 years of experience in Finance and was a commissioner in a previous administration, so she has the skills for a smooth transition."

Barry's career in public service began in 1981 and has included a number of high-level administrative positions. She has been the Deputy Commissioner of Finance since April 1999, managing the internal operations of the agency. Before that, Barry served as Commissioner of Health under Governor Carlson from June 1995 until January of 1999.

She has also served as a Budget Team Leader for Health and Human Service programs in the Department of Finance. Her program development work in the Department of Human Services focused on Medicaid Programs.

Barry is a Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health/Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota. She earned her Juris Doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law and her Masters of Public Health Administration from the University of Minnesota. She also holds a bachelor of arts in Occupational Therapy from the College of St. Catherine and is a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota in the Kinesiology Department.

Barry is active in a number of community-based organizations including HOPE Community, as well as an active member of the St. Joan of Arc Parish. She is the immediate past president of USA Rugby, the Olympic affiliated governing body for rugby in the United States and very instrumental in the development of the sport of rugby in Minnesota.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 23, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Ann Schluter acting commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations. Schluter succeeds Julien C. Carter, who resigned this month to become associate vice president of human resources for the University of Louisville. Schluter will take over as acting commissioner on September 12, 2002.

"I am certainly going to miss Julien and all of his great work, but I am confident that Ann will continue to move the Department in a positive and strategic direction," Governor Ventura said. "Ann has extensive experience in state government and has already proven that she is an effective and strategic leader."

Schluter was named as the director of staffing for the Department of Employee Relations in 1999, where she is responsible for leading organizational change strategies that allowed the department to provide the best staffing tools for the human resource community.

Prior to Schluter's role at the Department of Employee Relations, she was the director of the Minnesota Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning, acting commissioner for the Department of Children, Families and Learning and served as deputy director for legislative affairs for Governor Carlson.

In addition to her work, Schluter has been active in her community, serving on the executive board for the Minnesota Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS). Schluter also served as a school board member for the Burnsville school district, where she was recognized by the state of Minnesota as an Outstanding Board Member.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, August 15, 2002

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE RESUMES PUBLIC TOURS AND STATE EVENTS

The Office of Governor Jesse Ventura announced today the Governor's Residence will resume public tours and official State of Minnesota functions beginning the week of August 19.

The major use of the residence will continue to be official ceremonial functions of the state, meetings conducted by the governor and events relating to the residence itself. These primary functions of the residence are based on state law (MS 16B.27 Subd. 1) and guidelines established by the Governor's Residence Council.

Public tours will be held each Thursday from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. beginning August 22, 2002.

The occasional use of the residence by non-profit organizations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. New policies, procedures and fee structures are being developed to accommodate the 2002 legislative mandate that requires non-state organizations to pay for both the direct and indirect costs of using the facility.

Requests for use of the residence, group tours or public tours should be directed to the Governor's Residence at 651/297-2161.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, August 14, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the recipients of the 2002 Governor's Acts of Kindness Award. The award is given to volunteers who make life better for an individual, group, neighborhood, organization or town. The Governor's Office announced on June 5, 2002 that the search for nominations was underway and received 90 applications in response. Eight finalists were chosen from the 90 nominations.

"After hearing about these amazing acts of kindness performed by Minnesotans, I can only express my admiration and respect for their efforts," said Governor Ventura. "It"s no surprise that Minnesotans would come to the aid of one another, but it's still exciting to hear about it."

The selection committee was chaired by Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk and included a number of respected community leaders possessing experience in the public and private sectors. Serving with the Lt. Governor were: Sally Pillsbury, retired Judge Terry Dempsey, former Lt. Governor Joanne Benson, and Christine Nelson, Ventura's director of citizen outreach.

The award recipients are:

Achievement: Beverly Collyard, White Bear Lake, Mission for the Visually Impaired. Collyard has been a volunteer Braille transcriber for the Mission since 1976.

Business: AM-PM Automotive Repair (Greg Martz), White Bear Lake, East Metro Women's Council. AM-PM donates automotive shop (services and parts) to perform car repairs for low-income families.

Good Neighbor: Jack Leigh Halverson, Mahtowa. Halverson cared for an elderly neighbor and his paralyzed son, then assumed the role of volunteer publisher of Arrowhead Leader Newspaper at the family's request.

Heroism: Sheldon Tveit, Warroad. Tveit came to the defense of a young woman who had been assaulted. During the altercation, Tveit suffered great injury. He also testified against the offender in court, which resulted in a charge.

Leadership: Patty Wetterling, St. Joseph, Jacob Wetterling Foundation. Through the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, Wetterling helped bring the AMBER (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Plan to

Minnesota to aid in locating missing children.

Organization: Crisis Connection, Richfield. A phone counseling service that has been in existence since 1969. Seventy-four volunteers provide phone counseling 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Senior: Doris Petrovich, Minneapolis. Cares for the homeless by crafting quilts, door stops and walker bags for donation.

Student: Biana Ward, Hugo, Person to Person. Ward is a senior at the University of Minnesota. She taught an Oromo woman English and daily living skills and then created an instructional video for adult ESL students as part of a service learning class project.

Nominees who were not selected were recognized with a certificate. An awards presentation will be held August 29th at the Governor's Residence.

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For immediate release:
Monday, August 5, 2002

GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA TO TRAVEL TO CUBA

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura confirmed today that he will travel to Cuba in September 2002 at the invitation of the organizers of the U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition.

Governor Ventura will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition. In addition Governor Ventura will participate in marketing efforts to promote the sale of Minnesota-produced food products and agricultural products for use by the 11.217 million citizens of Cuba.

In December 2001, Illinois-based Archer Daniels Midland Company included corn from Minnesota in the first direct export of corn from the United States to Cuba since 1959. Soy from Minnesota has also been sold to Cuba.

More than 150 companies (including Cargill, Incorporated; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; and Hormel Foods Corporation), organizations (including Northarvest Bean Growers Association), and state offices (including Minnesota Department of Agriculture) from at least thirty states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are confirmed to participate in the U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition to be held at the Palacio de Convenciones de la Habana (Pabexpo) in Havana from Thursday, September 26 through Monday, September 30, 2002. Day four of the U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition will be open at no charge to all Cuban nationals. Approximately 18,000 to 20,000 professional visitors are expected at the U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition.

The U.S. Food & Agribusiness Exhibition, organized by Westport, Connecticut-based PWN Exhibicon International LLC (http://www.cubaexhibitions.com), is the first and only exhibition specifically licensed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the United States Department of the Treasury in

Washington, D.C., for representatives of United States-based companies and representatives of United States-based organizations to visit Cuba to market food products and agricultural products. The Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (TSRA) of 2000 re-authorized the direct commercial (on a cash basis) export of food products and agricultural products from the United States to Cuba irrespective of purpose.

The total market value of agricultural products and branded food products purchased/contracted by Cuba-based entities from United States-based companies since December 2001 is approximately US$109 million, including approximately US$4.3 million in agricultural products delivered in December 2001.

Cuba thus far in 2002 ranks approximately 54th of 180 countries in terms of agricultural product purchases from United States-based companies; Cuba ranked 138th in 2001 (solely based upon approximately US$4.3 million in purchases in December 2001); and ranked 180th in 2000. If, as expected, Cuba-based entities purchase US$165 million in agricultural products and food products from United States-based companies in 2002, Cuba will likely rank approximately 45th of 180 countries, ahead of Denmark, The Bahamas, Portugal, Jordan, Greece, South Africa, Chile, Poland, Vietnam, Hungary, Austria, Ukraine and 135 other countries. If, as expected, Cuba-based entities purchase approximately US$260 million in agricultural products and food products in 2003, Cuba would rank approximately 33rd of 180 countries.

Media representatives seeking to accompany Governor Ventura to Cuba in September 2002 should contact the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. (telephone: 202-797-8520; facsimile: 202-797-8521) to obtain a visa and should contact E.J Krause & Associates (telephone: 301-493-5500; facsimile: 301-493-5705) for travel and hotel reservations.

Governor Ventura is expected to be in Cuba from September 25th through the 28th.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 2, 2002

STATE TO HONOR MINNEAPOLIS POLICE OFFICER WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that state flags at all state buildings in Minnesota be flown at half-staff from sunrise Monday, August 5, to sunset Tuesday, August 6, to honor Melissa Schmidt, the Minneapolis police officer killed in the line of duty last night.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 31, 2002

FIRST LADY THANKS MINNESOTANS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR PARTICIPATION IN "SAVE THE ANIMALS" FOOD DRIVE

(Minneapolis, MN) First Lady Terry Ventura today announced that the "Save the Animals" food drive for livestock in flooded areas of northern Minnesota was successful. The First Lady thanked citizens and businesses for donating time and resources to the food drive, most notably Long Haul trucking, which hauled two semi trucks full of feed, hay and supplies to Roseau on Sunday. The trucks contained approximately 36 tons of feed, 300 bales of hay and other supplies for the animals.

The First Lady also thanked the following businesses for their assistance:

Dayton Co-Op

Maple Plain Co-Op

Delano Elevator and Feed

Transport Graphics

Purina

In addition, Mrs. Ventura thanked the media, particularly radio station BOB 106.1 for their assistance in bringing public attention to the plight of the farmers and their animals.

"It's no surprise that Minnesotans pulled together in an emergency situation and really made a difference," said First Lady Ventura. "This proves once again how truly gracious and kind Minnesotans are."

The First Lady noted that there continues to be a serious need for money and feed to sustain the farms in flood-ravaged northern Minnesota. Any help, donations or feed would be greatly appreciated. For information, contact Mari Reed at 612-812-5835 or 763-428-8933.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, July 9, 2002

STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

Earlier this afternoon Governor Ventura was admitted to North Memorial Medical Center and at this time is undergoing tests to determine the source of discomfort in his lungs. North Memorial officials have confirmed that the governor's condition is stable and described his admittance as precautionary.

The governor's schedule for today and Wednesday has been cancelled. At this time it is not known if future schedules will be affected.

North Memorial officials have asked the media to contact the governor's communications office for further updates.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SENDS GUARD TO HELP WITH WILDFIRE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed an Emergency Executive Order authorizing the Minnesota National Guard to help fight the wildfire in the Grand Portage State Forest in northeastern Minnesota.

The order cites the fact that the fire is extremely fast-moving and threatening homes and orders the Guard to provide any help it can to the Department of Natural Resources.

The text of today's Executive Order is available online at:
http://www.governor.state.mn.us/july_5_wildfire_order.html

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 28, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced four finalists for two Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancies in Ramsey County. The openings will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Campbell on June 30, 2002 and the resignation of the Honorable Wilhelmina Wright to accept an appointment to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The finalists are Diane Alshouse, Edward Cleary, Marybeth Dorn and Gary LaFleur.

Alshouse, Roseville, is a managing attorney in the Second Judicial District Public Defender's office in Ramsey County. She has been an assistant Ramsey County public defender since 1985, except from 1997 to 1998, when she was an assistant attorney in the Hennepin County attorney's office in Minneapolis as part of an exchange program between Ramsey and Hennepin Counties. Alshouse earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1970.

Cleary, St. Paul, is the director of the Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, a position he has held since 1997. He was an attorney in private practice in St. Paul from 1978 to 1997, and an assistant Second Judicial District public defender in Ramsey County from 1980 to 1995. He was a staff attorney in the securities division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce from 1977 to 1978. Cleary earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1977 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1974.

Dorn, Shoreview, is the chief referee in the family court division in the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County. She has been a Hennepin County court referee since 1987. Dorn was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Pepin, Dayton, Herman, Graham and Getts in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1987, an attorney and partner in the law

firm of Sutcliffe and Swanson in Minneapolis from 1978 to 1982 and a law clerk in Hennepin County from 1977 to 1978. Dorn earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1976 and her bachelor of arts degree from Bethel College in St. Paul in 1968.

LaFleur, Shoreview, is an attorney, senior partner and co-owner of the Babcock, Neilson, Mannella, LaFleur and Klint law firm in Anoka. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1979 and was a law clerk from 1976 to 1979. LaFleur has also been a board member of Midwest Disability in Anoka since 1996. LaFleur earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1973.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 58 applications for these two judicial vacancies.

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 28, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VIEW FLOOD DAMAGE IN ROSEAU

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura

What: Visiting Roseau to view damage caused by recent flooding. The governor will also visit the Roseau Polaris plant, the Roseau County Farm Service Agency, and tour the FEMA-DEM Disaster Recovery Center

When: Monday, July 1, 2002
3:15 p.m.

Where: Roseau

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 27, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA REQUESTS WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS TO HELP FLOODED AREAS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that volunteers are needed this weekend in the flood stricken areas of Mahnomen and Roseau. For information call:

Mahnomen: 218-935-5370 or 218-935-5263
Roseau: 218-463-0940

Volunteers are encouraged to call in advance. Phones will be answered from 7 a.m to 7 p.m.

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For immediate release:
Monday, June 24, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA SIGNS REQUEST FOR AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed a request for an agricultural disaster declaration. The request, which was sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, sought assistance for the counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau, which were devastated by recent flooding. The governor also approved an executive order authorizing National Guard assistance to the counties of Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Polk, and Roseau to help communities respond to on-going rains in those areas.

On Friday, the Minnesota Division of Emergency Management sent a request to FEMA seeking additional disaster aid under the existing federal declaration, including individual assistance for 5 counties (Norman, Mahnomen, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching and Red Lake) and public assistance for 12 counties (all but Kittson, where there is too much water to determine public damages).

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 20, 2002

GOVERNOR TO TOUR FLOOD DAMAGE IN ROSEAU

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura will visit Roseau on Friday, June 21, 2002 following his weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor." Joining the governor will be Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Butler (FEMA) and State Director Jerry Rosendahl (Division of Emergency Management).

The governor will fly over damaged crop areas and visit the local emergency operations center, the disaster recovery center, temporary housing and Polaris.

Last week the governor declared a state of emergency for 13 counties in Northwestern Minnesota, including Roseau County. Last Friday President Bush granted Governor Ventura's request to declare Minnesota a federal disaster area and authorized individual assistance for Roseau County.

To view last week's documents, visit the governor's Web site at www.governor.state.mn.us

Roseau itinerary:

12:30 p.m. Wheels up to Roseau
1:45 p.m. Arrive in Roseau and tour various locations
4:00 p.m. Wheels up to St. Paul
5:15 p.m. Arrive in St. Paul (Regent Aviation)

David Ruth of the governor's communications office will be traveling with the governor and may be contacted on his cellular during the tour at 612-812-3186.

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 14, 2002



Lt. Governor Mae Schunk announces President Bush's decision to declare Minnesota a disaster area

PRESIDENT APPROVES GOVERNOR VENTURA'S REQUEST FOR FEDERAL DISASTER AID

(St. Paul, MN) President Bush today approved Governor Ventura's request that Minnesota be declared a federal disaster area due to severe storms and flooding in the northwestern part of the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now authorized to provide "expedited" assistance to Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau counties. The federal approval is in response to a letter sent yesterday by Lt. Governor Mae Schunk.

"I got a close-up look at the devastation up north earlier this week," Lt. Governor Schunk said. "It's a region that has had more than its share of disasters over the past few years and the state of Minnesota is doing all it can to help everyone affected by the flooding."

Several types of federal aid will be made available to the communities, including individual assistance, disaster unemployment assistance, crisis counseling, public assistance, hazard mitigation and small business administration disaster loans.

"Federal assistance will provide those additional resources, like temporary housing, that are so desperately needed in these communities," said Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver, whose agency coordinates disaster planning, response and recovery for the state.

All executive orders and official documents are available online at: www.governor.state.mn.us

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 13, 2002

GOVERNOR REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER AID
LT. GOV. SCHUNK SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH

(St. Paul, MN) Lt. Governor Mae Schunk today sent a letter to President George Bush requesting Minnesota be declared a federal disaster area due to the flooding in the northwestern part of the state. The request asks for "expedited" assistance to speed the process for the affected counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

Lt. Governor Schunk telephoned Governor Ventura Wednesday evening after touring the flooded areas. The governor, who is on a trade mission in China, encouraged the lieutenant governor to do whatever was necessary to provide additional assistance for the victims of the flood.

"I couldn't believe the devastation I saw in Roseau," said Lt. Governor Schunk. "Most of the town was underwater, yet people were heroically fighting to stave off the flood."

The letter to President Bush specifically requests individual assistance, disaster unemployment assistance, crisis counseling, public assistance, hazard mitigation and small business administration disaster loans.

The text of the letter of request is available online at:
www.governor.state.mn.us

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, June 12, 2002

GOVERNOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY
LT. GOVERNOR TOURS FLOODED AREAS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura has declared a state of emergency for 13 Northwestern Minnesota counties hit by this week's flooding. The declaration is the first step in the process required to have the region declared a federal disaster area by President Bush.

Lt. Governor Schunk today signed Emergency Executive Order 02-06, which declares the state of emergency for Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau counties. Lt. Governor Schunk then headed north, where she is scheduled to tour flood damage in and around Ada/Borup, Roseau and Warren.

The text of today's Executive Order is available online at:
www.governor.state.mn.us/executive_orders.html

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 11, 2002

LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR FLOOD ASSISTANCE TO NINE ADDITIONAL COUNTIES

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura has ordered the Minnesota National Guard to render assistance to nine additional counties in northwestern Minnesota that have been stricken by floods.

Lt. Governor Schunk today signed Emergency Executive Order 02-05, which sends assistance to the counties of Beltrami, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau. The order authorizes the National Guard to provide "such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens" of those counties.

A previous executive order provided assistance to Norman County.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 6, 2002

Governor's comments

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANSON AND MEYER TO SUPREME COURT, WRIGHT TO COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Judge Sam Hanson and Helen Meyer to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The vacancies will occur with the resignations of the Honorable Joan Ericksen Lancaster on June 14, 2002 and the Honorable Edward Stringer on August 31, 2002. Seventy-four people applied for these two positions.

Hanson has been an at-large judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals since November 2000. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Briggs and Morgan in Minneapolis from 1966 to 2000, where he specialized in civil litigation and regulated industries. He served as the firm's president from 1988 to 1993. Hanson was a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Robert Sheran from 1965 to 1966 and a law clerk for Hennepin County District Court Judge Douglas Amdahl from 1964 to 1965. Hanson earned his law degree with honors from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1965 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1961.

"As a judge of the Court of Appeals, Judge Hanson has distinguished himself as a person who writes his opinions clearly and concisely, yet with a full analysis of the issues," Governor Ventura said. "Judge Hanson's legacy on the Supreme Court will be immediate, and it will be felt for many years to come."

Hanson is a member of the Minnesota and national Boards of Law Examiners, the Minnesota Supreme Court Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure Advisory Committee, is chair-elect of the William Mitchell College of Law Board of Trustees and is on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. He has been inducted into the American College of Trail Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Hanson also works with people in third world communities through

Global Volunteers.

Hanson, 62, was born in Mankato and resides in Minneapolis with his wife, Mirja. They have six children and three grandchildren.

Meyer has been the owner of Meyer and Associates in St. Louis Park since 1996, where she has a civil trial practice which includes mediation and arbitration work. She is also certified as a civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and the Minnesota State Bar Association. Meyer was a founding partner of the Pritzker and Meyer law firm in Minneapolis in 1987, where she practiced until 1996 and was an associate attorney with the law firm of Schwebel, Goetz, Sieben and Hanson in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1987. Meyer earned her juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1982 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1976.

"Helen has taken risks in her career. She built her own law firm. She has served on law-related committees and has tackled tough and sometimes unpopular issues in her profession and worked to see them through," Governor Ventura said. "Helen also relates well to the common person. Her clients come from a variety of backgrounds, education levels and professions. In writing her opinions, Helen will make sure they make sense to everyone."

Meyer is an at-large governor's appointee to the Commission on Judicial Selection, a board member of the Minnesota State Board of Legal Certification and the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, where she served on its executive committee. She was chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Civil Litigation Section Governing Council and the Bar Association Committee on Judicial Evaluation, was a board member of the Creative Dispute Resolution, Inc. and a member of the Civil Jury Instruction Guide Lawyer's Committee.

Meyer, 48, was born in St. Joseph, raised on a Stearns County dairy farm and resides in Edina with her husband, Jan Halverson and their three sons, Max, 15, Alex, 13 and Jack, 6.

Following the announcement of the two Supreme Court justices, Governor Ventura announced the appointment of Second Judicial District Judge Wilhelmina Wright to fill Judge Hanson's position on the Court of Appeals.

Wright has served as a Second Judicial District trial court judge in Ramsey County since November 2000. Prior to that she was an assistant United States Attorney in Minneapolis, where she

prosecuted federal criminal cases in the Economic Crime Section. She was a member of the Major Crimes Section prior to joining the Economic Crime Section and has been an assistant U.S. Attorney since 1995. She was an associate attorney with the law firm of Hogan and Hartson in Washington, DC and Houston, Texas from 1991 to 1995 and a law clerk for U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith in Detroit, Michigan from 1989 to 1991. Wright earned her juris doctorate degree from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1989 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Yale College in New Haven, Connecticut in 1986.

"When I appointed Judge Wright to the Ramsey County bench, I described her as a rising star," Governor Ventura said. "In less than two years, Judge Wright has distinguished herself as a hard-working judge who treats people fairly and with respect. She will bring her intellect, work ethic and sense of fairness to the Court of Appeals.

Wright serves on the Board of Trustees of William Mitchell College of Law, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Board of Directors and the Yale Alumni Schools Committee. She was also on the Board of Directors of the Federal Bar Association, the Board of Directors of the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley, the St. Paul Public Schools Graduate Standards Advisory Committee, and volunteered for Clare House, an adult foster home for people living with AIDS.

Wright, 38, was born in Norfolk, Virginia and resides in St. Paul with her husband, Daniel Schmechel and their daughter, Kathryn.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 6, 2002

STATE RECEIVES 16 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANT MONEY TO ENHANCE BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE CAPBILITY

New funding would be used to beef up disease reporting system, laboratory capacity, communications and response planning

(St. Paul, MN) - The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has been formally approved to receive approximately $16 million in bioterrorism response funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The new CDC grant will be used to strengthen Minnesota's public health system, enhancing the state's capability to detect and respond to potential public health emergencies - including a possible terrorist attack involving a biological, chemical or radiological agent.

"In the event of a bioterrorism attack, public health will be our early warning system and our first line of defense," said Jan Malcolm, Minnesota Commissioner of Health. "Our public health agencies and health care providers will be the first to recognize the signs that may point to a possible attack, and they will also be responsible for guiding and directing our response to that kind of event."

"We already have one of the strongest public health systems in the country," Commissioner Malcolm said, "and we've always taken pride in that fact. But we also know that we have some very significant gaps to fill if we are to respond effectively to the threat posed by bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

"We need the ability to detect and respond to emergencies in a time-urgent fashion, on a 24/7 basis," she said. "This new federal funding will help fill some of the gaps, and bring us closer to having that kind of capability."

To staff its expanded emergency response capability, will be hiring up to 80 employees in a number of areas. In addition to support staff, the

list will include specialists in the areas of planning, administration, law, project coordination, education and training, risk communication, web design, information technology, communications technology, scientific research, research analysis, epidemiology, nursing, and laboratory technology.

People interested in applying for these positions are encouraged to visit the MDH website at http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hrm/jobs.htm.

MDH received 20 percent of the new bioterrorism funding on Feb. 15, shortly after Congress originally approved the project, with the rest to be awarded following approval of a formal grant application submitted by MDH. Approval of the funding was announced today by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. The grant is intended to fund activities over an 18 month period, which ends Aug. 30, 2003.

About $5 million of the $16 million being awarded to Minnesota will go to the state's network of 50 local public health agencies, which serve cities and counties throughout Minnesota. In addition to the CDC funding, the state will also receive an additional $2.1 million from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to help the state's hospitals prepare for a possible bioterrorism event.

Activities to be funded with the new CDC grant include:

Planning and Readiness Assessment. This will include a comprehensive assessment of the public health system's current capabilities - which MDH officials have described as "incomplete and fragmented" - and the establishment of a new Office of Emergency Preparedness within MDH. Other tasks to be funded with the grant money include development of a comprehensive response plan, annual readiness exercises, efforts to improve coordination between the public health system and the state's existing emergency response system, and development of a 24/7 notification system for mobilizing public health personnel in an emergency.

Disease Surveillance and Response Capacity. The state's existing disease reporting system will be expanded and strengthened, to provide for time-urgent, 24/7 reporting of an expanded list of diseases and conditions. This enhanced system will serve as the "early warning system" for a possible bioterrorism attack or public health emergency, providing timely information about situations that may be part of a terrorism incident. Staffing and expertise in critical areas like epidemiology will be expanded, in order to assure that the state has

the resources to launch an effective response to a bioterrorism incident, and containing the public health threat posed by such an event.

Laboratory Capacity. Improvements to the lab system will include improved communication and collaboration between the state Public Health Laboratory and the state's 157 private clinical laboratories; improved training and procedures for collecting and transporting clinical specimens; development of an integrated response plan that will improve coordination of state lab activities with law enforcement, local public health, and other clinical labs; enhanced testing capacity and capabilities at the state lab; enhanced capability for electronic data handling and sharing; and improved lab security.

Training and Communications. The grant money will be used to strengthen existing systems for rapid, electronic communication between MDH and local public health agencies, as well as laboratories, hospitals, health care providers, and others who would play a critical role during a bioterrorism event. These strengthened communications systems must have the capability to function on a 24/7 basis. The funding will also be used to create an improved system for communicating with the public during an emergency, including procedures for coordinating messages, and making sure the information provided to the public is clear, consistent, accurate, and easily understood. Some of the funding will be used to train personnel who will play a key role in responding to a bioterrorism event, and conduct regular exercises to make sure all parts of the response system are functioning effectively.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, June 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced he is seeking nominations for the 2002 Governor's Acts of Kindness Award. The award is given to volunteers who make life better for an individual, group, neighborhood, organization or town. Nominees must be residents of Minnesota and their volunteer activities must have taken place in Minnesota between January 2001 and December 2001. Winners will be recognized at a reception on August 29, 2002.

An application for the award is available on the Governor's Office website at: (http://www.governor.state.mn.us/pdf/nominationform1.pdf).

Entries must be received in the Office of the Governor by close of business on Monday, July 15, 2002.

Information and Rules:

Acts of Kindness: Governor's Volunteer Award seeks nominations of Minnesota volunteers of all ages: volunteers who make life better for an individual, group, neighborhood, organization or town, especially those volunteers whose service may have been accomplished without public attention or formalized through an organization; Minnesotans who give of themselves, who see what needs to be done and take the initiative.

Most people who volunteer do not seek special recognition; they simply derive personal satisfaction spending part of their lives helping others. Nevertheless, it is important that we as Minnesotans acknowledge the spirit of volunteerism that enriches our lives, and express appreciation for the acts of caring and service that demonstrate our interdependence and commitment to each other's well-being.

Individuals or groups may be nominated. Nominees must be residents of Minnesota and their volunteer activities must have taken place in

Minnesota between January 2001 and December 2001.

Acts of Kindness is intended to honor those who voluntarily offer their time without pay. This does not include those engaged in stipended community service, service to defray student loans or to earn credit toward future tuition expenses, or persons performing court-ordered service. (Reimbursement for actual expenses of volunteering is allowable.) Individuals engaged in activities that foster discrimination based on race, gender, socio-economic status, sexual or affectional orientation, age, physical ability or religion, are not eligible. Governor's Office staff, nominators and members of their families, award program judges and previous winners are not eligible to receive an award.

All decisions by the selection committee are final. Winners will be recognized at a presentation event and reception held at the State Capitol scheduled for August 29, 2002.

In order for a nomination for the Acts of Kindness: Governor's Volunteer Award to be considered, the nomination form must be filled out completely. Please type or neatly print the information. Return to the Office of the Governor at the address below. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON MONDAY, JULY 15, 2002

Send all entries to:
Governor's Acts of Kindness Awards

Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Please Note: The application may be copied or word processed, however, ONLY APPLICATIONS THAT USE THE SAME AMOUNT OF SPACE AS PROVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL FORM AND USE A FONT NO SMALLER THAN 10pt WILL BE CONSIDERED. Please do not send additional materials as decisions will be made based on responses to the questions on the application.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 31, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS JOHNSON TO PUC

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of R. Marshall Johnson to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Johnson has served on the PUC since August 1993. Prior to that he was a consultant to the economic development division of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board from 1988 to 1991, chief executive officer of Anchor Gas and Fuel, Inc. and Anchor Transport, Inc. from 1974 to 1986, chief executive officer of Johnson's One Stop and president and general manager of Johnson's Motel and Vermillion Motel from 1960 to 1974. Johnson earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1958.

"Marshall has been rock-steady as a commissioner on the PUC," Governor Ventura said. "During his tenure on the commission, he has helped provide a good balance between the utilities and consumers."

Johnson has been a member of the Gas Research Institute Board of Directors since 1994 and a member of the National Association for Regulatory Utility Commissioners since 1996 and was a member of the National Gas Association from 1980 to 1986. He received the National Liquid Petroleum Gas Association's Marketing Achievement Award in 1986, the Peabody Gordon-Piatt Award for highest nationwide furnace sales from 1982 to 1984 and the Honda Sales Award for outstanding sales achievement in 1973.

Johnson, 67, was born in Duluth and lives in St. Paul with his wife, Barb. They have three children, Carolyn Coggan, Kim and Marshall, and four grandchildren. Johnson is appointed to another six-year term that expires on January 7, 2008.

The Public Utilities Commission regulates the rates and services of electric, natural gas, and telephone companies through public hearings, contested case hearings, rule-making hearings and resolving informal complaints. The commission, which has legislative and

quasi-judicial functions, consists of five members appointed by the governor. Commission members are compensated $85,880 annually.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 31, 2002

GOVERNOR SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCILS OF COLOR

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced vacancies on the Minnesota Chicano Latino Affairs Council and the Council on Black Minnesotans.

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) (http://www.clac.state.mn.us) is a statewide government agency created by the legislature in 1978. The primary mission of the CLAC is to advise the governor and the state legislature on issues of importance to Minnesota's Chicano Latino community.

CLAC serves as a liaison between local, state and federal governments and Minnesota's Chicano Latino community. The council also acts as an information and referral agency to ensure that Chicano Latinos in Minnesota are connected to the appropriate government agencies and community-based organizations to address their concerns, which range from immigration and education to discrimination and social welfare.

There are six openings on the council; two are at-large openings, and there is one opening in each of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th congressional districts. Three of the openings are for four-year terms and the other three are to finish out existing terms. The council meets bi-monthly.

The Council on Black Minnesotans (CMB) was created in 1980 to address the unmet needs and ongoing issues impacting Minnesotans of African descent and ensure that the needs of their constituents are conveyed to policy makers. The CBM works in collaboration with approximately 73 different ongoing committees and task forces which examine and address issues including economic development, education, employment, violence, crime, drugs, health, out-of-home placement of children, family preservation, police community relations, poverty, housing and the unique concerns of African-born Minnesotans.

There are seven openings on the CMB, one of whom must be East African. Three of the openings are for four-year terms, and the other four are to finish out existing terms. The council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30p.m., usually in St. Paul.

Candidates for either of these councils must submit an application. Applications are available on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us, or by calling 651-297-5845. Applications must be submitted to the address below so they are received no later than June 25, 2002.

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180 State Office Building
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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Bonding Items Approved and Vetoed

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

Today I approved over five hundred million dollars in capital projects. In addition, I vetoed just slightly less than four hundred million dollars worth of projects.

I am sure that every project in the bonding bill was extremely important to its advocates. Indeed, some of the projects that I vetoed may have had value for all Minnesotans. However, no matter how valuable a vetoed project was deemed to be, the legislature spent too much money on capitol projects and therefore I felt compelled to bring the total cost of the bill down to a reasonable level.

Had the legislature balanced our operating budget into future budget cycles when the debt service for these projects will come due, I may not have made as many vetoes. My message to advocates of the vetoed bills is that in many cases I did not reject projects based on their value, but rather delayed them until the legislature does its job and passes a budget that guarantees that we can afford the projects' debt service.

Next year the legislature will face many difficult decisions. To make up for a projected $2.5 billion dollar deficit they will either have to raise taxes or make substantial cuts to an already stressed budget for state services. Once they have made those tough decisions I may be willing to revisit some of the capitol projects vetoed in this bill.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have signed HF3618, Chapter Number 393, a bill related to capital improvements, with the exception of the line item vetoes listed on the attachment to this letter.

When I presented my 2002 capital budget recommendations in January, they focused on projects of statewide and regional significance. In addition, all of the debt service costs associated with my capital budget recommendations were provided for F.Y. 2002-2003 *and* F.Y. 2004-2005 in my operating budget recommendations.

The Legislature has chosen to pass and present a significantly-expanded bonding bill that substitutes projects of local significance for those with statewide and regional significance such as the Northstar commuter rail line. In addition, the Legislature did not adopt a fully-funded budget plan that would pay for the added debt service costs in F.Y. 2004-2005.

As a result, I cannot in good conscience approve all the projects in the 2002 bonding bill. While many of these projects may be worthy of state investment, their funding will need to be delayed. I will not add approximately $73 million of additional debt service costs in the next biennium and needlessly increase the size of the projected deficit. We need to show restraint by not aggravating what is already likely to be a huge budget problem for the next Legislature.

While I have not line item vetoed Nicholson Hall, the flood hazard mitigation grants, and local bridges, I do not intend to release all the funding for each of these projects. I will release $10 million dollars

for Nicholson Hall, $15 million dollars for flood hazard mitigation grants, and $30 million dollars for local bridges. I further recommend that the next Governor, be it myself or another person, only release the balance of the funding for these projects if the Legislature produces a balanced budget. I chose this course of action because each of the projects has merit but cannot be supported at the recommended level of funding given our budget situation.

Attached is a list of the specific line item vetoes I have made to HF 3618.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson
Senator Roger Moe
Senator Dick Day
Representative Tom Pugh
Senator Keith Langseth
Representative Jim Knoblach
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
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click here for vetoed bonding items

APPROVED 2002 BONDING PROJECTS

($ in 000s)

University of Minnesota:

HEAPR 35,000

St. Paul Plant Growth Facility 17,700 1/3 UF

Duluth Science Facility 25,500

*Nicholson Hall 24,000 1/3UF

Systemwide Classroom Improvements 2,000 1/3 UF

Crookston Bede Hall 7,701 1/3 UF

Subtotal 111,901

MnSCU:

HEAPR 60,000

Normandale Phase II 9,900 1/3 UF

Minneapolis CC Remodeling 9,000 1/3 UF

Metro State University 17,442 1/3 UF

Alexandria TC Remodeling 9,150 1/3 UF

Winona Science Facility 30,000 1/3 UF

Moorhead Science Facility 18,955 1/3 UF

Systemwide Science Lab Renovations 1,900 1/3 UF

Century CC Remodeling 2,500 1/3 UF

Subtotal 158,847

Perpich Center for Arts Education:

Asset Preservation 643

Performance Hall Catwalk 125

Subtotal 768

CFL: Red Lake School Renovation 12,400

MN State Academies: Asset Preservation 1,500

Department of Natural Resources:

Statewide Asset Preservation 2,600

Field Office Renovations and Repair 1,000

Office Facilities Development 1,500

ADA Compliance 500

Forest Roads and Bridges 1,200

Well Sealing 600

Luce Line Trail 300

Douglas Trail 300

Willard Munger Trail 300

Dam Repair and Reconstruction 650

**Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants 30,000

State Park Repair Initiative 23,500

Metro Regional Parks 6,000

RIM Critical Habitat Match 1,000

Subtotal 69,450

PCA: Closed Landfill Program 10,000.**Agriculture:** RFA Loans 15,000 UF

Mn Zoo: Asset Preservation 3,000

OEA:

Fergus Falls Solid Waste Combuster 1,150

Administration:

Statewide CAPRA 14,000

Capitol Complex Electrical Work 3,231

Agency Relocation 1,500 GF

Lab and Office Facilities 60,000

Subtotal 78,731

Capitol Area Architectural Board:

Capitol 2005 Repairs 646 GF

Military Affairs:

Asset Preservation 2,500

ADA Improvements 357

Facility Life Safety Repairs 1,000

Subtotal 3,857

Transportation:

***Local Bridge Repair and Renovation 45,000

Metropolitan Council:

Northwest Metro Busway 20,000

Commerce: Energy Investment Loans 5,000 UF

Human Services:

Systemwide Roof Replacement 2,789

Systemwide Asset Preservation 4,000

Systemwide Building Demolition 2,750

St. Peter RTC Power Conversion 3,619

Fergus Falls Program Facilities 3,000

Subtotal 16,158

Veterans Homes Board:

Asset Preservation 2,000

Hastings Building Preservation 8,553

Silver Bay Roof Replacement 2,345

Subtotal 12,898

Corrections:

Asset Preservation 17,000

Lino Lakes Bed Expansion 4,160

Shakopee Renovation 3,070

Subtotal 24,230

Trade and Economic Development:

PFA Wastewater Matching Funds 16,000

Mn Historical Society:. Asset Preservation 2,442

Sibley House Site Improvements 300

Fort Snelling Improvements 500

Subtotal 3,242

MHFA: Transitional Veterans Housing 16,200

Bond Sale Expenses 880

TOTAL -- "A" LIST 510,529 GO

44,000 On Hold

70,183 UF

2,146 GF

626,858 All Sources

* $14m of $24m to be put on hold

** $15m of $30m to be put on hold

*** $15m of $45m to be put on hold.

2002 BONDING BILL

VETOED PROJECTS

University of Minnesota: Return to TOP

Jones Hall 8,000

Morris Science Facility 8,600

Research and Outreach Centers 2,438 1/3 UF

Translational Research 24,700

Institute of Technology and Teaching Design 3,000 1/3 UF

Morris Swine Facilities 70 1/3 UF

St. Paul Veterinary Facilities 1,500 1/3 UF

Subtotal 48,308

MnSCU:

SW State Library Remodeling 9,200 1/3 UF

Virginia Lab Remodeling 5,496 1/3 UF

BSU Tech Design 1,000 1/3 UF

Dakota TC Tech Design 500 1/3 UF

Fergus Falls CC Student Services Design 760 1/3 UF

Hennepin TC Remodeling 2,000 1/3 UF

Inver Hills CC Student Services Design 500 1/3 UF

Lake Superior Student Services Design 700 1/3 UF

Mankato Athletics Facility 8,400 1/3 UF

Mn West Worthington Nursing 6,300 1/3 UF

NW Tech Moorhead Health Design 400 1/3 UF

Ridgewater Hutchinson Labs 2,880 1/3 UF

South Central Tech Labs Design 300 1/3 UF

SE Tech/ Winona Student Services 580 1/3 UF

St. Cloud State Remodeling 10,000 1/3 UF

St Cloud Tech WFC 700 1/3 UF

Statewide System Land Acquisitions 1,000 1/3 UF

Subtotal 50,716

CFL:

Library Accessibility Grants 1,000

Early Childhood Facility Grants 2,000

Southwest Metro Magnet School 1,000

Minneapolis Planetarium 9,500

Asian Community Center 1,000

Colin Powell Youth Leadership Center 700

Neighborhood House El Rio Vista 1,800

Trollwood Performing Arts Center 5,500

Subtotal 22,500

DNR:

Red River Recreation Area 2,900

Big Bog Recreation Area 1,600

Greater MN Regional Parks 4,000

Red Rock Rural Water System 125.McQuade Safe Harbor 1,100

Crookston Dam Improvements 1,050

Rapidan Dam Improvements 100

State Park Acquisition 3,000

Como Conservatory 2,700

Reforestation 1,500

State Forest land Acquisition 500

Gitchi Gami Trail 725

Shooting Star Trail 450

Blazing Star Trail 600

Goodhue Pioneer Trail 475

Paul Bunyan Trail 500

State Trail Connections 500

New Ulm Trail 500

St. Louis Park Trail 492

Lake Koronis Trail 365

Metro Greenways 1,000

Lewis and Clark Water System 180 GF

Stream Protection and Restoration 1,000

Water Access & Fishing Piers 1,500

Fish Hatchery Improvements 300

Fisheries Acquisition 500

SNA Acquisition 1,000

**Seminary Fen 1,500

Natural & Scenic Area Grants 1,000

Prairie Bank Easements 1,000

Subtotal 32,162

Office of Environmental Assistance:

Capital Assistance Grants 3,600

Board of Water and Soil Resources:

Lazarus Creek Flood Mitigation 1,500

Local Govt Wetland Replacement 2,700

RIM 2,000

Streambank & Lakeshore Erosion Control 750

Browns Creek 1,300

Subtotal 8,250

Agriculture: Metro Greenhouse Expansion 292

MN Zoo: Asia Trail & Master Plan 8,184

Amateur Sports Commission:

National Sports Center Conference Center 5,000

Mount Itasca Biathalon Facility 250

National Volleyball Center - Rochester 3,000

Subtotal 8,250

Administration:

Olmsted County Predesign 700

Governor's Residence Relocation 45 GF.Governor's Residence Renovation 4,246

Subtotal 4,991

Arts Projects:

Bloomington Arts Center 1,000 GF

Minneapolis Children's Theater 5,000

Guthrie Theater 24,000

Rochester Arts Center 1,000 GF

Subtotal 31,000

Transportation:

Port Development Grants 3,000

Port of Savage Improvements 3,500

Port of Winona Improvements 3,500

Greater Minnesota Transit Grants 2,000

Statewide Public Safety Radio System 13,000

Local Share - Trunk Highway Projects 10,000

Local Routes of Regional Significance 10,000

Town Road Signs 1,000

Duluth Arial Lift Bridge Repainting 1,000

DM&E Rail Mitigation Study 500 GF

Subtotal 47,500

Metropolitan Council:

Central Corridor Planning 1,000

Livable Communities Grant Program 9,000

Park and Ride Lots 500

Subtotal 10,500

Health:

Dental Clinics 775

Corrections:

Bayport Storm Sewer 1,550

Stillwater New Desegregation Unit Predesign 90

Subtotal 1,640

Human Services:

People, Inc. 375 GF

Brainerd RTC Building 20 6,305

Subtotal 6,680

Trade and Economic Development:

Redevelopment Grant Program 4,000

WIF Grants 30,000

WIF Grant Administration 600 GF

Mpls Empowerment Zones 3,000

St. Paul Phalen Blvd 8,000

Greater MN Business Development Grants 12,000

Fairmont Sports Complex 500

Grand Rapids Discovery Museum 300

Olivia Ag Inovation Center 1,000.St. Cloud Convention Center Design 3,250

St. Paul Roy Wilkins Auditorium 4,000

St. Paul Renaissance Project 2,000

Subtotal 68,650

IRRRB: Mesabi Trail Station 1,500

Military Affairs:

Camp Ripley Anti-Terrorism Facility 500

MN Historical Society:

Local Grants 300

Fort Belmont Restoration 200

New Brighton Caboose 100 GF

Pipestone County Museum Elevator 125

Subtotal 725

TOTAL -- "V" LIST 333,643 GO

19,280 UF

3,800 GF

356,723 All Sources.**2002 BONDING BILL**

($ in 000's)

G.O. BONDING 888,172

G.O. BONDING VETOED 333,643

Subtotal 554,529

G.O. BONDING PROJECTS ON HOLD: (44,000)

Nicholson Hall ($14,000 of $24,000 on hold)

Flood Hazards ($15,000 of $30,000 on hold)

Local Bridges ($15,000 of $45,000 on hold)

NET G.O. BONDING AUTHORIZED

AND AVAILABLE 510,529

Click here to return to TOP

Click here to return to Approved Items

Click here to return to beginning of Vetoed Items

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

[Veto letter]

GOVERNOR SIGNS STADIUM, INTERNET PRIVACY AND 11 OTHER BILLS; VETOES BILL REQUIRING PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed 13 bills into law:

- **HF 2214** creates a state-assisted financing mechanism for a baseball park and creates some related conditions. The bill also contains a Vikings/Gopher stadium study.
- **SF 2908** is the Internet privacy bill that requires Internet service providers to give consumers an option regarding whether their personal information is used in any other manner.
- **HF 2515** is the anti-terrorism bill. It provides $13 million for training, equipment, and planning for anti-terrorism (requires a local match or equipment).
- **SF 3024** makes technical changes within the purview of the Dept. of Commerce, such as cost sharing and deductible levels for HMO's.
- **SF 2572** is the annual public finance bill. It contains minor modifications to rules and authority granted to local governments when undertaking various improvements.
- **HF 3127** clarifies pension provisions and provides for the payment of pension contributions for teachers in charter schools that went bankrupt or closed.
- **HF 2886** allows an unofficial tribal identification card that includes the person's name, address, picture and signature to be used as acceptable ID for the voter registration process. The card must be issued by a federally recognized tribal government.

- **HF 3092** allows employers of nursing homes and other vulnerable adult facilities to disseminate data about former employees without fear of liability.

- **HF 2972** makes technical corrections to last year's energy bill.

- **HF 3350** establishes emeritus registration for mortuary science practitioners, establishes a donated dental services program and a volunteer health care provider program, and clarifies the effective date for a section governing family community support services.

- **SF 2891** is the session-end "Revisor's Bill." Section 6 makes an effective date change in CH342 (Department of Commerce banking bill) to ensure there is no gap in state oversight of mortgage prepayment restrictions.

- **HF 3031** establishes the Minnesota Emergency Health Powers Act, specifying the powers and duties of the governor and the commissioner of health during public health emergencies. The governor is authorized to declare a national security or peacetime emergency due to a public health emergency, and the legislature's oversight power is extended to both kinds of public health emergencies. Procedures are established for terminating public health emergencies. The governor's emergency powers under chapter 12 are modified. Principles governing isolation and quarantine during serious disease outbreaks are established, and due process procedures for persons under isolation or quarantine are created.

- **HF 2780** makes changes to real estate law and medical malpractice statutes.

The governor vetoed the following bill:

- **HF 2598** The school pledge of allegiance recitation requirement *(see attached letter).*

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 391, House File Number 2598, a bill requiring school pledge of allegiance recitation.

I am vetoing this bill because I believe patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary. It is a feeling of loyalty and allegiance that is the result of knowledge and belief. A patriot shows their patriotism through their actions, by their choice.

Chapter 391 is not about choice. In Chapter 391, the State mandates patriotic actions and displays. Our government should not dictate actions. The United States of America exists because people wanted to be free to choose. All of us should have free choice when it comes to patriotic displays.

According to West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette (U.S. Supreme Court, 319 U.S. 624, 1943), the action of the local authorities in compelling the flag salute and pledge transcends constitutional limitations on their power, and invades the sphere of intellect and spirit which it is the purpose of the First Amendment to our Constitution to reserve from all official control.

This case went on to state that words uttered under coercion are proof of loyalty to nothing but self-interest. Love of country must spring from willing hearts and free minds, inspired by a fair administration of wise laws enacted by the people's elected representatives within the bounds of express constitutional prohibitions. In other words, a government wisely acting within its bounds will earn loyalty and respect from its citizens. A government dare not demand the same.

There is much more to being a patriot and a citizen than reciting the pledge or raising a flag. Patriots serve. Patriots vote. Patriots attend meetings in their community. Patriots pay attention to the actions of government and speak out when needed. Patriots teach their children about our history, our precious democracy and about citizenship. Being an active, engaged citizen means being a patriotic American every day. No law will make a citizen a patriot.

For these reasons, I vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Senator Mady Reiter
Representative George Cassel
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, May 21, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS EIGHT BILLS, INCLUDING JOBS BILL

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed eight bills into law. In signing SF 3431, the omnibus economic development bill, the governor included a letter in which he expressed reservations about the bill (letter below). Here is a summary of the other seven bills:

- HF 3163 is the Revisor's bill, affecting various agencies and statutes.
- SF 2433 makes changes to criminal sexual conduct codes.
- SF 2486 requires the Department of Health to prospectively review and approve new radiation therapy facilities if they are built within 10 miles of existing radiation therapy facilities and are not owned, operated or managed by a Minnesota licensed hospital.
- SF 3172 makes changes to the laws regarding conditional release periods for sex offenders from other states.
- HF 3073 makes gambling provisions changes, including amending requirements for pull-tab dispensing machines.
- SF 2422 changes various vehicle services provisions, including the processing time on title transfers.
- SF 3231 allows people who are applying for licensure to use a P.O. box as a mailing address to protect themselves from someone who might harass them.

May 21, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 State Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

I am signing S.F. 3431 (H.F. 3648), the Omnibus Economic Development Bill. However, I do so with some reservation. This bill has many valuable provisions that appropriately should be signed into law; however, I have reservations because the extended Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits in the bill are unfair to Minnesotans.

When I approved the UI extension for the workers of LTV Mining last year, I did so with the understanding that LTV's case met very specific and narrow criteria. By changing those criteria, and extending UI benefits to only a handful of the thousands of Minnesotans who claim UI benefits, I believe you have established a precedent with S.F. 3431 to be used in future years to justify a far wider set of extensions - and the UI Trust Fund simply cannot bear that burden.

It all comes down to fairness. In response to terrorism and recession, the federal government already provided resources to extend unemployed workers across the country for another 13 weeks. The extensions in this bill treats some workers as if their unemployment is more severe or painful than their friends, neighbors, and colleagues at other companies or in other industries. Government needs to treat all cases evenly; 52 weeks of benefits "here and there" just doesn't make sense.

These extensions may have serious future policy implications that the Legislature will have to deal with as it continues to seek long-term solutions for the solvency of the UI Trust Fund. We can, and should, do better for Minnesota's workers and businesses.

Despite these reservations, on balance I believe that this bill contains a number of provisions that are beneficial to the state. Consequently, I have signed this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

c: Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Dan McElroy
Senator Ellen R. Anderson
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, May 21, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA TO CONGRATULATE LT. GOVERNOR SCHUNK FOR VISITING EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN)--On Friday, May 24, Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk will fulfill her pledge of visiting all 340 school districts in Minnesota. The lt. governor will go to South St. Paul High School, where she will visit an International Baccalaureate class, attend a question and answer session and hold a news conference/assembly.

After the news conference, the lieutenant governor will be a guest on the governor's weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor," which will be held in the adjacent community building. The audience for the radio show will be comprised of civic studies students. The radio show will be open press for the first 10 minutes--and photo op only.

Itinerary:

9:30 a.m. Lt. Governor arrives, visits International Baccalaureate Program (room A-274)

10:00 a.m. Question & Answer session with students and the superintendent Centennial Room, Central Square Community Center--adjacent to the school

10:30 a.m. *Governor arrives to attend next event

10:30 a.m. News conference/school assembly, South St. Paul H.S. gymnasium

11:00 a.m. "Lunch with the Governor" radio show, Centennial Room, Central Square Community Center

South St. Paul H.S. is located at 700 2nd Street North.

Media parking will be available in the east lot (6th street).



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For immediate release:
Monday, May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed three bills into law:

- SF 3256 amends statutes to allow homemade food items to be sold at community events and farmers' markets as long as it is made clear that the items are homemade and are not subject to state inspection. The name and address of the person preparing and selling the item must also be displayed.
- SF 2738 makes minor changes and clarifications to laws regarding Department of Natural Resources funding.
- SF 3134 makes changes to the state's role in regulating individual septic treatment systems and allows the creation of a sanitary sewer district for several cities on the Iron Range.

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For immediate release:
Saturday, May 18, 2002

GOVERNOR VETOES TWO BILLS; SIGNS ONE BILL; AND ALLOWS ONE BILL TO BECOME LAW WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed one bill into law:

- SF 3099 is the medical assistance continuing care programs and MFIP hardship extensions expansion.

Governor Ventura allowed HF 2498 (omnibus tax bill) to become law without signature (see attached letter).

Governor Ventura vetoed two bills:

- HF 3270 is the omnibus budget bill (see attached statement and letter).
- SF 1755 is the school employee health insurance plan (see attached letter).

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The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have decided to allow Chapter 377, House File Number 2498, the omnibus tax bill, to become law without my signature.

This bill is a part of an overall legislative approach that is clearly inadequate for the task of responsible budget management. It relies almost exclusively on accounting shifts and the use of one-time resources. While it balances the current state budget from a bookkeeping point of view, it does very little to balance revenues and spending. Difficult budget problems have been deferred, not solved.

Chapter 377 includes a new forced loan of $25 million from businesses by delaying a planned reduction in the amount of the June accelerated sales tax payment. This also has the effect of borrowing from a future state budget period to balance the current one, making the future budget problem worse instead of better.

Chapter 377 also contains permanent tax increases, including some that were a part of my original comprehensive budget recommendations. However, the tax increases in this bill do not contribute to a balanced budget, but are used to finance other new state tax exemptions and local property tax relief programs. The new taxes on installation services, certain long distance calls, and campus meals will not be used to help fund current state obligations like schools and nursing homes. Instead, they will pay for a new state aid program for three counties, higher state payments to farmers, and a host of new tax breaks for local projects and businesses.

Nevertheless, this bill does include features that benefit taxpayers. Conformity to most of the provisions of the recent federal economic stimulus bill will avoid extra paperwork and cost in completing next

year's tax returns. A fair resolution of the income tax reciprocity issue with Wisconsin will keep taxes simple for cross-border commuters. And the relatively minor adjustments to last year's tax legislation will no doubt be welcome to bakery customers.

Therefore, despite my objections to the overall approach that the Legislature has taken to the state budget during the 2002 session, I have decided to allow Chapter 377 to become law. I will not saddle Minnesota taxpayers with additional complexity next year simply because of the failure to address our budget problems this year.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Ron Abrams
Senator Larry Pogemiller
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
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The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 374, a bill relating to the omnibus budget and appropriations.

Our state has a significant budget problem: lower state tax receipts caused by the national recession have created a permanent gap, this year and every year after, between money coming in and spending. This past November, the projected difference between revenue and actual annual expenditures was in excess of one billion dollars per year, starting in FY03 and continuing through the FY04/05 biennium.

In January, I presented a comprehensive proposal to balance the budget through June, 2005. Following established practice, it recognized that normal inflationary pressures on state spending should be realistically accounted for in the budget, just like future inflation-driven increases in revenue. I proposed a balanced combination of spending reductions and revenue increases, phased in by use of existing budget reserves. I also proposed a plan to restore the reserves as a hedge against future economic shocks.

In February, my budget proposals were roundly rejected by the Legislature. Instead, the Legislature unilaterally enacted a "Phase I" budget plan over my veto that avoided any significant cuts to the 88 percent of state spending outside of state agencies, did not increase revenues, and changed its own accounting rules to ignore inflation in future spending. It also used up almost all available reserves to plug the budget gap over the short-term.

At the end of February, a revised forecast projected state revenues would drop by another $300 million in the current biennium and by another $671 million in FY04/05.

At that time, legislative leaders assured me that they would work diligently to craft a more responsible long-term budget solution in a "Phase II" plan.

During March, April, and early May, each house of the Legislature separately developed budget proposals that included some additional permanent spending reductions and revenue increases. Taken together, these offered the potential for making progress in reducing the gap between annual revenues and spending.

Instead, the Legislature passed Chapter 374 and abandoned any pretense of resolving the long-term budget imbalance. Its centerpiece is an accounting shift to delay some state payments to school districts until the next fiscal year, supplemented by other accounting changes to provide the minimum necessary cash flow and budget reserves. If this bill becomes law, the real ongoing gap between revenues and expenditures will remain in excess of one billion dollars per year--just as it was when the legislative session opened.

This bill is not worthy of Minnesota's strong tradition of responsible long-term budget management. This Legislature has deferred the difficult choices. Next year, the Legislature and Governor will have to face these hard choices with fewer options, fewer resources and less time.

As Governor, I will not allow the pressure of looming elections to lower the standard for fiscal prudence, even temporarily. My expectation is that the Legislature will return to Minnesota's high standards for governance and budgeting. My veto of Chapter 374 is a call to return to responsible long-term management of our state's finances.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc:Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Kevin Goodno
Senator Doug Johnson
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House

Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State



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The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 378, Senate File Number 1755, a bill authorizing $1.3 million for a study of a new statewide K-12 employee health insurance pool.

I am vetoing this bill first, because I do not feel that this study can be justified at a time of critical budget deficits and cuts in state government and state services. There are several health insurance pooling programs already in statute and available to K-12 employees, such as Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP), Service Cooperatives, and others.

Secondly, there have been several previous studies of statewide pooling concepts, as recent as 2000 by DOER. This study will not tell us anything we don't already know. The problem of escalating health insurance premiums for school districts and their employee will not be solved by SF 1755.

For these reasons, I vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader

Senator LeRoy Stumpf
Representative Gregory Davids
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 17, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES EGAN TO MET COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that he has appointed Thomas Egan to the current vacancy on the Metropolitan Council in District 15. The vacancy occurred with the death of Carolyn Rodriguez. Council District 15 includes the Dakota County cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Lilydale, Mendota, and Mendota Heights.

Egan, Eagan, has been an attorney in the Apple Valley law firm of Egan, Stewart and Lauer and its predecessor since 1985, was a solo practitioner in Burnsville from 1983 to 1985 and was an attorney in the Minneapolis law firm of Freeman, Gill, Anderson, Egan and Keating from 1975 to 1983. Egan was the mayor of Eagan from 1990 to 1998 and a member of the Eagan City Council from 1978 through 1989. He has served on numerous committees including the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, of which he was president from 1996 to 1997, and the Municipal Legislative Commission, of which he was president from 1995 to 1996.

The Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee interviewed eight applicants for this position at a public hearing on May 7 in Burnsville. They recommended Eugene Franchett and Egan as finalists for this position. Governor Ventura interviewed the finalists before making a decision.

The Metropolitan Council coordinates planning and development in the seven county metropolitan area and directly operates several regional services. The Metropolitan Council consists of 16 metropolitan citizens appointed from geographically defined districts in the seven county metropolitan area and a chair. All 17 members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms that are co-terminus with the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 17, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed three bills into law:

- HF 3183 is the omnibus agriculture policy bill.
- SF 2392 makes technical changes to the 911 statutes, including removing the Public Utilities Commission from a portion of the process for reimbursing telecommunications carriers for 911 services.
- HF 3203 makes changes in vehicle registration, driver's license and fuel tax laws.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 16, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA URGES MORE MINNESOTA COMPANIES TO EXPLORE THE WORLD

(ALEXANDRIA, Minn.) Governor Jesse Ventura on Thursday urged more Minnesota companies to explore export opportunities during a luncheon speech at "World Competitor Day," a daylong promotion and education event sponsored by the Minnesota Trade Office.

"From Canada to China, and everywhere in between, Minnesota companies are proving they can compete anywhere in the world," said Governor Ventura. "We flex a lot of muscle, but we're not there yet. We've only begun to develop our trade potential."

Last year, Minnesota posted total exports of about $17 billion and ranked 20th among all states for foreign sales. The governor said too many Minnesota companies are sitting on the sidelines at a time when the international playing field offers so much growth opportunity and has never been more open to competition. He asked more manufacturers, especially those in Greater Minnesota, to "suit up" and get into the game.

The governor stressed the importance of international sales to the state's economy, noting that one in eight manufacturing jobs is export related. In addition to providing more jobs, companies that export pay 15 percent high wages and 11 percent higher benefits than their non-exporting counterparts

Exporting companies are also 20 percent more productive, experience 20 percent greater job growth, are more stable and less subject to domestic economic downturns. "We can't afford *not* to export," said Governor Ventura.

The governor also tried to dispel the notion that exporting is the sole realm of big business.

"Too many of our small and medium-sized companies seem to

think that international trade is a decision made only in the skyscraper boardrooms of multinational conglomerates," said Governor Ventura. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Nearly 97 percent of U.S. exporters are small businesses and companies with 20 or fewer employees are the fastest growing segment of exporters in the United States, he said.

Earlier in the day, Governor Ventura and executives from several exporting companies participated in a business roundtable discussion at Alexandria Technical College. A seminar was also held for companies interested in learning about export fundamentals.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 15, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS FOUR BILLS, VETOES ONE

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed four bills into law and vetoed one. The governor vetoed SF 2707, which would have modified real estate task force funding provisions (see veto message below). Here is a summary of the bills he signed:

- SF 2448 allows the commissioner of public safety to refuse to disclose personal information from driver's license and motor vehicle records if the commissioner feels the data is being requested for illegal or improper purposes.
- HF 3200 establishes guest licensure for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants who are licensed or registered in a state bordering Minnesota.
- SF 3246 is the "Do Not Call" bill.
- SF 2727 is the annual Omnibus Lands bill that addresses approval of the sale of state surplus lands, changes in state park and forest boundaries and other land acquisition provisions.

May 15, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 365, Senate File 2707, a bill modifying real estate task force funding provisions.

I am vetoing this bill because it will unnecessarily extend for another year a surcharge that will be borne by consumer homebuyers and sellers. I agree that improving the efficiency of government filings of real estate transactions as well as state coordination of this country/business effort is solid public policy. However, if the bill were not enacted, the task force would simply be required to complete its work within its original timeline and within its current budget. This too is good public policy.

For these reasons, I am vetoing the bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Al Juhnke
Senator Steve Kelley
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
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For immediate release:
Monday, May 13, 2002

MAKE IT SIX YEARS IN A ROW: MINNESOTA IS NATION'S 'MOST LIVABLE STATE'

(St. Paul, MN) For a record sixth consecutive year, Minnesota has been named the Most Livable State in the country. The award is given annually by Morgan Quitno Press, an independent publishing and research company based in Lawrence, Kansas.

"I'm starting to feel like a broken record. It's getting harder every year to say something new about Minnesota's unbeatable quality of life," Governor Jesse Ventura said. "How many different ways are there to say we're number one?"

"Our award is nothing if not consistent," said Scott Morgan, President of Morgan Quitno Press. "But Minnesota seems to have what it takes to keep the other 49 states at bay. The state performs consistently well in many areas. Minnesota has a low teen birth rate, a high homeownership rate, a very good high school graduation rate and high spending for the arts."

The Most Livable State award is based on a broad range of "quality of life" factors reflecting a state's economy, education, health, public safety and the environment. More information on Morgan Quitno's annual survey is available at www.statestats.com.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 10, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS GYPSY MOTH BILL

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed one bill before heading north for the Governor's Fishing Opener:

- SF 3463 allows no new authority for any agency to apply pesticides, but does allow some limited examples of existing pest control to occur, under new restrictions. This will allow legal spraying for gypsy moths and forest tent caterpillars, control of possible West Nile virus outbreaks and mosquito control spraying.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 9, 2002

GOVERNOR NAMES ACTING HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSIONER

(St. Paul, MN)-- Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Linda Anderson acting commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Anderson succeeds Michael O'Keefe, who resigned to become president of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Anderson takes over in July.

"We're going to miss Michael, but I know Linda will pick up right where he left off," Governor Ventura said. "She knows the department and has a varied background that has always focused on helping people. I also like the fact she's worked in both the public and private sectors."

Anderson, 54, was named deputy commissioner a year ago, a position in which she oversaw an agency with an annual budget of more than $6.8 billion and 6,800 employees. Before that she spent six years as social services director in St. Louis County.

Before moving to the public sector, she served as executive director of Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Minneapolis for five years. She also has management experience at Target Corp. and Sears, Roebuck and Co., and has been a teacher and preschool director.

Anderson's strong record of community service includes involvement with the United Way in different cities, the University of St. Thomas' Center for Nonprofit Management, Project 2001 in Duluth, the University Episcopal Center in Minneapolis, Leadership Minneapolis, and with the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce and YMCA.

A native of Fargo, Anderson has a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia College in St. Paul.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 9, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed two bills into law:

- SF 3298 addresses a number of transportation issues, including an exemption from the existing moratorium on consultant contracts for projects funded by the trunk highway fund.

- SF 3384 makes changes to the campaign finance law, including changing a number of criminal penalties to civil penalties for violations of the act.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 8, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed three bills into law:

- SF 3200 allows requires environmental learning centers to acquire liability insurance in order to operate.
- HF 3359 establishes requirements under which registered nurses may prescribe drugs and administer vaccines.
- SF 3026 requires that any licensed physician in another state who treats patients in Minnesota via electronic means or the telephone register with the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice and be subject to that agency's jurisdiction.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 3, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed one bill into law:

- SF 2568 allows Hennepin County to enter into a lease for more than five years.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, May 1, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SEVEN BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed seven bills into law:

- HF 2618 allows school districts to share personnel data with law enforcement, establishes additional parameters for sharing data on students involved with the juvenile justice system, and requires public employees and officials to report theft of public funds to law enforcement officials.
- SF 3257 allows Housing and Redevelopment Authority board members to receive loans or grants as long as the member discloses having applied for the funds, and abstains from voting on the application.
- SF 2363 prohibits insurers from rejecting, canceling or not renewing automobile or homeowners insurance solely on the basis of a person's credit history.
- SF 2125 is the final settlement on the consolidated conservation lands controversy in Marshall, Roseau and Beltrami counties.
- HF 2970 modifies various rules and statutes related to snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.
- SF 3168 allows municipalities to enter into long-term contracts to maintain water tanks under certain conditions.
- SF 2998 provides for licensing and testing of alcohol and drug counselors who specialize in working with ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 30, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

In accordance with the Attorney General's comments the Governor's residence will not be staffed but will remain "available" for official ceremonial functions and be "maintained" according to acceptable state standards.

However, due to lack of funding from the Minnesota State Legislature the ability to hold official ceremonies at the Governor's residence will be limited.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 30, 2002

THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

Myth: If the Residence is shut down for more than six months it must be demolished.

Fact: Not true. It was true at one time but the deed restriction that required demolition expired in 1995.

Myth: The proposal to close the Residence is due to cuts in the Governor's security budget.

Fact: Only partially true. The legislature cut the Governor's security budget but also passed a law (HF 351) that requires the Governor to save $40 million dollars through layoffs, salary cuts, and attrition.

The proposal to close the Residence is the result of both cuts. The proposed closing will save about $150,000 a year in security costs and about $200,000 in salary and labor costs--all related to the budget balance bill passed by the legislature in February.

Myth: The Governor could have cut costs in other areas.

Fact: The Governor has. Since the legislature passed the budget cutting bill into law the Governor has cut over $1.3 million dollars from his budget.

Including:

- The State's membership in the National Governors Association
- The citizenship and volunteer office
- Travel reductions and restrictions
- Reducing the staff by over 20 %

- Limited availability for use of the Governor's Residence
- Eliminating performance increases for staff

Myth: The Governor should have come up with alternatives to the legislature.

Fact: He did. On January 10 Governor Ventura offered a budget that would have solved the deficit without closing the Residence.

Myth: The budget is balanced and at least we can move on from here.

Fact: No, the budget is not balanced. In fact the budget cutting is only going to get worse.

Myth: At least the Governor's office won't suffer any more cuts.

Fact: Not true. The legislature has also eliminated the funding for the State's Washington D.C. office.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 29, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS, INCLUDING FIREWORKS DEFINITION

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed two bills into law:

- SF 2960 legalizes the sale, possession and use of sparklers, snakes, glow worms and other novelty items. The fireworks are not permitted on public property and anyone who buys them must be at least 18 years old and provide identification.

- SF 2674 is the annual bill of changes to statutes regulating hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 24, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed two bills into law:

- SF 2460 outlines civil liability for damage to crops and other subjects of research and testing.
- HF 2473 is the Darlene Luther Anatomical Gift Act, which expands the information regarding organ donation that must be provided to people applying for a driver's license or ID card.

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For immediate release:
Friday, April 19, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS, INCLUDING PHOSPHORUS REGULATION

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed three bills into law:

- SF 1555 prohibits the application of fertilizer containing phosphorus on turf in the metro area, and fertilizer with more than three percent phosphorus in non-metro counties, with some specific exceptions.
- SF 2909 permits creation of up to five rural demonstration projects aimed at improving access to health care.
- SF 2540 makes technical changes to probate and trust laws.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 17, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT WASHINGTON D.C.
APRIL 22 - 23, 2002

Monday, April 22, 2002

5:30 p.m. ETA Mayflower Hotel
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.

6:00 p.m. Arrive Minnesota State Society Reception
The Minnesota State Society, Minnesotans living in Washington DC who meet for social and charitable events, will honor Governor Ventura for his service to Minnesota.
United States Naval Memorial and Naval Heritage Center
701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Chinese Ambassador YANG Jiechi
2301 S. St. NW **(CLOSED TO MEDIA)**

10:00 a.m. Meeting with United States Trade Representative Ambassador Zoellick
USTR Office, 600 - 17th St, N.W. **(closed to media)**

11:45 a.m. Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitor's Association and Minnesota Office of Tourism Luncheon
The governor will address trade industry representatives to encourage them to bring their convention business to Minnesota.

Mayflower Hotel, The Chinese Room, 1127 Connecticut Avenue
11:30 a.m. - Registration
12:00 noon - Lunch - Governor Ventura gives address
12:45 p.m. - Program

1:45 p.m. Meeting with Minnesota Congressional Delegation
Library of Congress Members Room (LJ - 162) **(closed to media)**

3:00 p.m. News Conference: Same day voter registration
Library of Congress (front steps)
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.

3:30 p.m. Depart for Reagan National Airport and return to Twin Cities

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 17, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS FOUR BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed four bills into law:

- SF 2957 provides additional protection for the public from dentists and hygienists who are impaired and unable to safely practice dentistry
- SF 2988 makes a number of changes relating to the banking industry.
- SF 3075 clarifies specific types of motor vehicle sales that are subject to motor vehicle sales tax.
- SF 3114 allows a person whose driver's license has been suspended for failing to pay child support to receive a limited license if he or she qualifies. The license would expire after 90 days and would be given on a one-time basis.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 16, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed six bills into law:

- SF 2457 makes minor changes to civil commitment standards.
- SF 2592 modifies requirements for conversion of a mutual insurance holding company to a stock insurance holding company.
- SF 3288 extends the expiration date of an arbitration decision provision that governs firefighters under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.
- SF 3380 makes changes to the law that governs when post-nuptial contracts may be entered into and under what conditions they are enforceable.
- SF 2650 makes various changes to state law relating to credit unions.
- SF 3238 amends the Nonprofit Corporation Act to add voluntary regulations governing neighborhood organizations.

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For immediate release:
Friday, April 12, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed two bills into law:

- SF 3028 removes the Commission on Service Learning from the Department of Children, Families and Learning and makes it a not-for-profit entity.

- HF 1517 sets out the conditions, which must be met by daycare providers, for kids to use in-home daycare swimming pools.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 10, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS TWO BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed two bills into law:

- HF 2719 requires athlete agents who want to represent student athletes to register with the commissioner of commerce and comply with conduct requirements.

- SF 3015 creates an insurance fraud prevention division within the Department of Commerce.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 8, 2002

MAINE'S GOVERNOR TO MODEL GOPHER JERSEY

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today sent a University of Minnesota Golden Gophers hockey jersey to Maine Governor Angus King, who will don the jersey and have photos taken on the steps of Maine's Capitol in Augusta. While calling into Governor Ventura's weekly radio show last week, Governor King offered a friendly wager on the National Championship hockey game between the Black Bears and Gophers.

On Saturday, the Gophers beat the Black Bears 4-3 in overtime to win their fourth National Championship.

"All of Minnesota takes great pride in the Gophers' thrilling victory over Maine, and this is like the cherry on top," said Governor Ventura. "Maine should be proud of the season the Black Bears had--they had the Gophs on the ropes."

Governor Ventura included a note to Governor King asking him to sign the jersey and have it returned to Minnesota, where it will be proudly displayed in the Governor's Office.

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GOVERNOR VENTURA ON THE AIR EVERYWHERE

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura will be conducting radio interviews throughout Minnesota this week discussing the legislative session. Listed below are scheduled interviews (subject to change).

Tuesday, April 9

10:45 KFAN, Minneapolis

4:30 WCCO (Pat Miles), Minneapolis

Wednesday, April 10

10:15 KLTF, Little Falls

10:30 WDAY/KCNN, Fargo-Moorhead and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks

10:45 KYSM, Mankato

1:30 KLGR, Redwood Falls

1:45 KTOE, Mankato

2:00 KMRS, Morris

2:15 KWOA, Worthington

Thursday, April 11

10:25 Sporting News (national interview with James Brownthe sportscaster, not the singer)

10:45 KYMN, Northfield

2:00 KXRA, Alexandria

2:15 KJLY, Blue Earth

2:30 KDWA, Hastings

2:45 KTRF, Thief River Falls

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 8, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS 11 BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed 11 bills into law:

- HF 3125 changes the "Telecommunications Access for Communication-impaired Persons" fund to the "Telecommunications Access Minnesota" fund.
- SF 3174 makes modifications to the bill that governs money transfers.
- SF 3322 relates to waste and wastewater, including removing obsolete waste regulations.
- SF 2533 allows county boards to require an offender confined in a county facility to pay for room, board, clothing and other correctional services.
- SF 2949 amends operational license background checks to comply with federal laws relating to FBI background checks.
- SF 1811 allows counties and watershed districts to transfer management of drainage systems to cities in areas that are shifting from primarily rural to an urbanized setting.
- SF 3054 allows the Department of Commerce to clean up its data and lists of consultants and contractors registered to provide service under the state Petrofund.
- SF 3352 clarifies the definition of a dry-cleaner solvent by including all formulations of all solvents used by the dry-cleaning industry.
- SF 2678 makes minor changes and clarifications relating to

the Department of Natural Resources.

- SF 2150 concerns technology circuits or systems contractors and power limited technicians.

- HF 2988 concerns insurance licenses, fees, and coverages, as well as health care administration.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 8, 2002

GOVERNOR TO RECOGNIZE HIGH SCHOOL RECORD LABEL, BROADCAST RADIO SHOW FROM MUSICTECH COLLEGE

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura

What: Broadcasting his weekly radio show "Lunch with the Governor" from **Musictech College of Music and Recording Arts** and recognizing **Another Level Records**, a record label founded and run by students from **the High School for Recording Arts (HSRA)**. Student representatives from HSRA will appear on the show with the Governor to discuss their CD -*HIV Still Ain't No Joke*. The Governor will also take part in a recording session during his tour of Musictech.

When: Friday, April 19, 2002
10:00 a.m. - Tour of new Musictech facility and recording session **(open to media)**

11:05 a.m. - "Lunch with the Governor" broadcasts on WCCO AM 830 from Musictech College cafeteria **(open to media)**

Where: Musictech College of Music and Recording Arts
19 Exchange Street East, St. Paul 55101

Another Level Records (http://www.anotherlevelrecords.net) is a student operated record label that allows learners to explore the operations of the music industry first hand as they discover and record new artists, negotiate contracts, publish and copyright new music. They also manufacture, market and distribute recording projects completed by HSRA students as well as other artists. In addition to providing insight into the music industry, students participating in this program also gain valuable entrepreneurial skills necessary in starting their own businesses. ALR has released two CD's of HSRA student work and will release two more recordings this spring: *HIV Still Ain't No Joke*, with material on the theme of HIV/AIDS prevention, and *HSRA 2002*, a second compilation of HSRA students' work.

Musictech College of Music and Recording Arts (http://www.musictech.com), which just opened its new $3.6 million, 60,000-square-foot school in downtown Saint Paul, draws 250 music students from across the U.S. and overseas. Founded in 1985, Musictech offers degree programs encompassing guitar, bass, keyboards, voice, percussion, brass and woodwinds and motion imaging, as well as recording technology, music production and the music business. One hundred full and part-time faculty and staff with real-world experience in the music business teach in a state-of-the-art facility including 10,000 square feet of recording studios and digital laboratories, music library, and a 300-seat auditorium. The Governor's broadcast will take place in Musictech's 8,000-square-foot student commons area, the site of informal performances by student ensembles.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, April 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS FIVE BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed five bills into law:

- SF 2881 allows cities to set criteria for developers to build affordable housing and allows municipalities to prepare local fiscal notes on the net costs of affordable housing criteria.
- SF 2612 allows flashing lights on funeral home vehicles and prohibits local ordinances from not allowing their use.
- SF 2680 makes changes to the building code's energy provisions.
- SF 2739 provides for additional liquor licenses for Proctor, Albert Lea, Eden Prairie, West St. Paul, Brainerd and Coon Rapids.
- HF 2706 allows law enforcement vehicles to either sound a siren or display at least one red light when going through a red light or stop sign, instead of requiring both siren and light.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, April 4, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS THREE BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed three bills into law:

- SF 2675 requires, among other things, that the state purchase clean fuels for its vehicles if they are available at similar prices and are compatible with the vehicle's use.
- SF 2569 directs veterans homes to exclude federal tax rebates from their residents' income when it comes to determining resident contributions.
- SF 2580 makes a number of technical changes involving: DWI implied consent hearing procedures, juvenile court's jurisdiction over offenders, child endangerment law and escape from electronic monitoring law.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 1, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS FIVE BILLS, VETOES ONE

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed five bills into law and vetoed one. The governor vetoed SF 3084, which would have modified certain state and local auditing and reporting procedures (see attached veto message).

Here is a summary of the bills the governor signed:

- SF 2697 requires sellers of residential real estate to disclose anything negative about the property's physical condition.
- SF 3315 makes a minor change to the Joint Underwriting Association. The JUA provides medical malpractice insurance for health care providers unable to obtain malpractice coverage in the regular insurance market.
- SF 3145 makes technical revisions to the military code of justice that governs Minnesota National Guard members when not in federal active service.
- HF 1224 creates a registration system for medical response units who are comprised of first responders.
- SF 2542 makes changes to corporate and business law statutes.

April 1, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 309, Senate File 3084, a bill modifying certain state and local auditing procedures and reporting practices.

I have serious reservations about legislation that transfers responsibilities from one state government entity to another without funds or staff to make sure the work can get done, particularly in light of significant budget cuts to state agencies. Further, given the statutorily mandated hiring freeze in the phase I budget passed by the legislature, the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning cannot hire new staff to perform this function.

Finally, there has been no state funding in the past several years to support the agency's criminal justice statistics functions or staff. The office has one federally-funded position dedicated to a specific criminal justice project. Documenting and reporting on the disposition of forfeited property would be a unique function and is unrelated to the agency's statutory duties.

For these reasons, I am vetoing the bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Dennis Ozment
Senator Ann Rest
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, March 27, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SEVEN BILLS, VETOES ONE

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed seven bills into law and vetoed one. The governor vetoed HF 197, which would have provided grants to noncommercial television stations and authorized bonds for a metropolitan bus garage (see attached veto message).

Here is a summary of the bills the governor signed:

- SF 2890 makes modifications to the statutes that govern public contracts.
- SF 2793 requires the department of human services to study and develop recommendations for using more federal money to cover residential mental health treatment for children placed in out-of-state facilities.
- SF 3244 authorizes the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to submit lab reports electronically.
- SF 3034 allows the Hennepin County Medical Center to continue in a cooperative purchasing agreement with University of Minnesota hospitals.
- SF 2814 allows electronic voting by members of cooperatives.
- SF 2673 streamlines the judicial process for non-parents to obtain custody of children who are in their care.
- SF 3278 requires the Division of Driver and Vehicle Services to include information on organ donation in the state's Driver's Manual.

March 27, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 280, House File Number 197, a bill providing grants to noncommercial television stations and authorizing bonds for a metropolitan bus garage.

In 1999, I line-item vetoed $113,000 for grants to noncommercial television stations in the omnibus state government finance bill. At the time, I was concerned about expanding the state's role beyond the substantial support already provided for public television. I expressed my view that digital TV conversion should be funded by non-state sources.

Last year, the legislature included $7.8 million for digital TV conversion in the state government finance bill passed during the special session. I signed that bill since it also included language requiring the Commissioner of Administration and the Minnesota Public Television Association to negotiate an agreement specifying uses for digital capability to serve state and local government needs before the grants could be distributed.

The parties were required to finalize an agreement by January 15, 2002, or the appropriation would cancel to the general fund. Upon reviewing the contract and in light of the state's economic condition, I decided not to enter into the grant contract with the Minnesota Public Television Association. While the contract included provisions to put project management and accountability processes into place, the state benefits defined in the proposed contract were not a sufficient return on the investment, particularly considering the communications gaps that exist in public safety and health. H.F. 197 still doesn't provide an adequate level of direct benefit for the state given the investment being made.

I am also uncomfortable with the way that this project is funded. This bill pays for digital TV grants by refinancing a Metropolitan Council general fund appropriation with bonds and using the general fund dollars for grants to public television stations. If the legislature wants to refinance the bus garage appropriation with bonds, the project should be part of the overall bonding bill discussion. Finally, H.F. 197 adds to the state's obligations at a time when we have depleted our reserves and there is still a gap

between revenues and expenditures, both in the current budget and the next. I cannot sign this bill into law while these budget problems remain unsolved.

For these reasons, I am vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative David Bishop
Senator Keith Langseth
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, March 26, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS 17 BILLS, VETOES AUTO GLASS BILL

(St. Paul)--Saying it does not support consumers and consumer choice, Governor Jesse Ventura today vetoed HF 2570, which deals with automobile window glass insurance payments (see attached veto message). The governor did sign 17 other bills into law:

- HF 2882 makes the "Segway" transportation device legal on sidewalks, bike paths and other areas previously restricted to people on foot or bike.
- SF 2768 allows county boards to do county-based purchasing related to the prepaid medical assistance demonstration project.
- SF 3073 makes technical changes to domestic abuse orders for protection or no-contact order misdemeanor violations.
- HF 3274 provides certain protections for military personnel who are ordered to active duty, particularly college students.
- SF 2821 makes a number of technical changes to laws related to real estate brokers.
- SF 2459 resolves a lawsuit brought by nursing home temporary agencies against the state as a result of legislation passed last year.
- SF 2115 provides that bonds posted by licensed motor vehicle dealers conditioned on faithful performance or legal obligations apply only to performance by people engaged in consumer motor vehicle transactions.
- SF 2764 modifies licensing standards for programs that serve

vulnerable adults.

- SF 2614 requires that foster parents be notified of any communicable diseases the placed child might have.

- SF 3055 provides investigative authority and the ability to secure search warrants to the Metropolitan Transit Police on the same basis as other law enforcement.

- SF 2692 regards license applicants. The bill requires the Minnesota departments of human services and health to inform employers about the nature and reasons relating to any disqualification.

- SF 2933 sets certain requirements for the installation of individual sewage treatment systems.

- SF 2550 brings Minnesota into compliance with federal special education law, as required under the special education funding grant the state receives.

- SF 2953 is designed to keep large insurance companies from issuing policies for amounts far above the replacement cost of the building being insured.

- SF 2546 allows several communities to enter into consolidation plans.

- HF 2884 provides limits on civil fines for excess vehicle weight. It also imposes double fines on drivers of overweight vehicles who knowingly attempt to avoid weigh scales.

- HF 3196 eliminates outdated references and outdated provisions relating to the department of administration.

March 26, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I am returning

Chapter 283, HF 2570. I am vetoing the bill because it does not support consumers and consumer choice.

If the cost of auto glass replacement is the only consideration used to determine the local market price, several other cost factors that heavily impact small volume glass replacement operations will be ignored. If factors such as advertising and service costs are ignored, we will lose the small glass replacement operators. If the small operators are lost, glass replacement choices will be limited to those large operators with high volumes that have a more direct relationship with insurers. This will hurt the consumer by limiting flexibility and choice.

HF 2570 also fails to make a major improvement in the methods available to resolve disputed claims. Many small glass replacement operators have a significant number of disputed claims with insurers. HF 2570 does not remedy this situation.

Finally, no evidence exists that insurance premiums will decline if this bill is enacted into law.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Senator James Metzen
Representative Ken Wolf
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 25, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS 14 BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed 14 bills into law:

- SF 3045 extends a Hennepin County district court pilot project that reviews domestic fatalities.
- SF 3109 allows municipal police department vehicles to be black.
- SF 2611 provides a framework for developing a new interstate compact for the supervision of adult offenders.
- SF 1030 enacts the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact, which establishes an agreement among states and the federal government to share fingerprint-based criminal records.
- SF 222 provides enhanced penalties and fines for gross violations of game and fish possession limits.
- SF 2578 gives counties administering the Consumer Support Grant program the flexibility to disburse funds into county accounts that can be used by consumers before they receive an invoice.
- SF 2463 requires the Board of Nursing to recognize nursing licenses issued from border states as valid in Minnesota. It also prohibits certain health care facilities from taking action against nurses who decline to work additional hours because doing so may jeopardize patient safety.
- SF 3167 allows the department of corrections civil commitment review coordinator access to private data about incarcerated sex offenders early in the end-of-confinement review process.

- SF 1226 deals with no-fault automobile insurance medical benefits. The bill prohibits pre-established managed-care type restrictions on the right to receive those benefits.
- SF 3100 involves contracting with Indian tribes for the provision of chemical dependency services and the licensing of tribal providers as medical assistance providers.
- SF 3124 provides for a hearing process for when the department of human services is determining staffing levels for nursing homes.
- SF 3126 makes technical changes and corrections relating to department of human services matters.
- SF 3117 relates to the Metropolitan Council and interceptor facilities.
- SF 2419 involves regulations for childcare wading pools and public swimming pools.

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For immediate release:
Friday, March 22, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS 14 BILLS, INCLUDING 'GRACE' PHOTO BILL

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed 14 bills into law:

- SF 1072 designates the photograph "Grace" as the state photograph and requires that a copy be displayed in the Office of the Secretary of State.
- HF 2796 authorizes a joint venture between the city of Minneapolis and a private contractor to construct a new asphalt production plant.
- SF 3136 changes how workers' compensation assessments are made, but does not change the amount being collected.
- SF 2834 allows Steele County to make its recorder appointed rather than elected.
- SF 2434 allows Polk County to make its recorder and treasurer appointed rather than elected.
- SF 2590 allows Carlton and Pine counties to make their recorders appointed rather than elected.
- SF 3080 changes the requirements regarding money paid in advance for funerals, providing additional financial disclosure to beneficiaries or survivors.
- SF 2627 prohibits optometrists and physicians from making patients buy a particular manufacturers' produce and requires them to give patients a copy of eyeglass or contact lens prescriptions.
- HF 2531 makes technical changes regarding licensure for

hospice care providers.

- HF 2792 allows local governments to be indemnified for legal fees and damages occurring from the transport, management or disposal of household hazardous waste done under contract with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

- SF 2932 allows the MPCA to encourage citizen efforts to monitor water quality by providing assistance.

- SF 3115 amends laws that authorize the commissioner of Administration to enter into guaranteed energy savings contracts.

- SF 3258 authorizes the city of Garfield and MnDOT to exchange specific parcels of land, with the property received by the state to become part of the state rail bank.

- SF 2971 fixes a technical error created by changes to state procurement statutes in 1998.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, March 21, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

(St. Paul)--Governor Jesse Ventura today signed six bills into law:

- HF 2899 improves the efficiency of the Livable Communities Program by eliminating the need for communities to annually renew their participation and allows grant funds to be deposited with economic development agencies of local government.

- HF 3584 changes the financial benchmark used by the state court administrator in establishing interest rate for the calendar year for interest payable on judgments, awards, etc. It also establishes a "floor" interest rate of 4%.

- HF 2813 requires licensed child care providers to develop policies and procedures for reporting suspected child maltreatment.

- HF 2766 eliminates a sunset provision that protects motor vehicle franchisees when the franchiser intends to sell or transfer their operations.

- HF 3189 amends the definition of "special mobile equipment" to include street sweeping vehicles. This allows street sweeping vehicles to be exempt from licensing and taxation.

- HF 2742 regulates contested case procedures by allowing state agencies to designate an order of the Administrative Law Judge as the final decision maker, among other things.

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For immediate release:
Saturday, March 16, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR JESSE VENTURA

(St. Paul, MN) Before I leave for Germany, I want to be very clear about one thing: Despite implications from some legislators, I am not aligning with either the Democrats or Republicans on the current budget mess.

I made my proposal, back on January 10th. It was balanced, fair and spread the pain equally, yet I was roundly criticized for it. The House and the Senate chose to ignore my plan and came up with their own, a short-sighted one designed to get their members re-elected. I vetoed it, they overrode my veto. Fair enough. That's how our government works. My plan is still out there.

But my message to the legislators is this: now that the pressure is on, don't come looking for me to take your fall. If you want to vote to raise taxes, go ahead, and send me your passed bill. I'll evaluate it then. *But take full responsibility for your actions.* Don't play these games where you hide behind me, just because I had the courage to do the right thing.

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For immediate release:
Friday, March 15, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS ONE BILL, LETS BIODIESEL PASS INTO LAW

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed one bill, and said he will allow another, Senate File 1495, to become law without his signature.

SF 1495 is the biodiesel fuel mandate. The governor said he supports the bill's outcomes, but disagrees with the idea of any mandate from the government. (See attached letter).

The governor signed House File 2612, which revises the circumstances under which the signature of a licensed architect, engineer, land surveyor, geoscientist, landscape architect or certified interior designer is required.

March 15, 2002

The Honorable Don Samuelson
President of the Senate
121 State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Samuelson:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of my intention to allow Chapter 244, Senate File 1495 to become law without my signature. I have chosen this course of action for three reasons.

Agriculture plays a critical role in our State's economy. We need to actively support agriculture in our Minnesota. SF1495 clearly benefits our farmers by creating a new market for soy oil and it benefits Greater Minnesota by creating economic development opportunities related to the biodiesel industry. I fully support both of these outcomes.

I believe we need to pursue renewable fuels. Renewable fuels like biodiesel reduce our dependence on foreign oil and are better for the environment. Again, I fully support this outcome of SF1495.

However, I have serious reservations about any mandate from the government. I have reservations about legislation with elaborate conditions for future action. I am also troubled by the fact that the legislature can pass SF1495, increase future fuel costs and add to inflation while they ignore inflation in their proposed budget solutions. If this bill did not present such a clear opportunity for our farmers and our State, I would veto the bill on these grounds alone.

After balancing the statewide benefits of SF1495 against my concerns about the process used to gain those benefits, I have decided that I cannot sign the bill but I also will not stand in the way of its implementation.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader
Representative Steve Sviggum, Speaker of the House
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Tim Finseth
Senator Steve Murphy
Mr. Patrick Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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For immediate release:
Friday, March 8, 2002

GOVERNOR VISITS MONTEVIDEO NATIONAL GUARD

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura spent Friday at the Minnesota National Guard's Training and Community Center in Montevideo, where he took a tour, broadcasted his weekly radio show and met with school officials.

Constructed in 1993, the Training and Community Center was built in collaboration with the Montevideo School District, the City of Montevideo and Chippewa County. In addition to the high school using several classrooms and the gymnasium, the Montevideo community uses the facility for wedding receptions, banquets, day care, blood drives, community education and various fairs and festivals.

Minnesota's Training and Community Centers began replacing "armories" in the late 1980s. An armory is a military facility, used only for National Guard training, while a TACC is a joint venture between the community and its local Guard unit. Because the Guard only uses the TACCs about one weekend a month, sharing the facility is a great way to connect to the community while saving money and resources. Each TACC is tailored to its local community; some have pools, some have hockey arenas, tracks, etc. Facility costs are also shared between federal, state and local governments.

As the first state to implement this concept, Minnesota has become a model for Training and Community Centers across the nation. National Guard representatives from several states have started touring some of Minnesota's 63 TACCs in the hopes of implementing similar programs.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, March 7, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIX BILLS

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed six bills into law:

- HF 2642 removes the requirement that the inspector of mines provide a report of the prior year's proceedings.
- HF 3116 makes language changes to laws related to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.
- HF 2624 increases the city of Shakopee's Public Utilities Commission from three to five members, and limits the number of city council members who can be members of the commission.
- HF 3148 makes technical changes to the registration requirements of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
- HF 2992 extends the duration of temporary licensure for occupational therapists to six months from the date it is issued.
- HF 3062 repeals the law limiting the term of service for juvenile court judges in Ramsey and Hennepin counties.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, March 5, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed Senate File 1471, which codifies the transfer of duties and powers from the Minnesota Municipal Board to Minnesota Planning. The actual transfer took place in 1999.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, February 28, 2002

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura today signed Senate File 3019, which makes changes enabling the Department of Public Safety to avoid a penalty in its federal grant funding.

The bill requires the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to verify addresses for the lifetime of certain predatory offenders, as opposed to ten years.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, February 26, 2002

GOVERNOR TO CELEBRATE "READ ACROSS AMERICA;" BROADCAST WEEKLY RADIO SHOW

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura and Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

What: "Read Across America" and weekly radio show

When: Friday, March 1, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Central Park Elementary, 535 West County Road B2, Roseville

Itinerary:

10:00-10:35 a.m. Governor and Lt. Governor visit classrooms #201, 204 and 202

10:40-11:00 a.m. Governor and Lt. Governor read to Ms. Dayton's first grade class--#202
(A student will then read a book that was prepared by the class)

11:00-12:00 p.m. Weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor" from room #202
Topics: Read Across America, Q&A by the students and current events

MEDIA NOTE: Everything is open press with the exception of the classroom visits to rooms #201 and #204. All students have photo/video releases for room #202.

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For immediate release:
Sunday, February 24, 2002

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY TERRY VENTURA

The news of Senator Wellstone's illness is of great concern to us. Our thoughts go out to the Senator and his family. These jobs are not easy but fortunately the Senator has a strong and supportive family to help him through tough times. We know that living with a disability is difficult but we are confident that Senator Wellstone and his family will meet this challenge with courage and dignity.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, February 14, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES STATE HIRING RESTRICTION

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura announced today that he has directed state agencies, boards and commissions to institute a state hiring restriction. Current or future vacancies will not be filled unless there is a critical or legal need to do so. A central review board or approval process will not be used. Instead, each agency head will personally approve any new hire and will be held accountable to the governor and legislature.

The new policy will remain through the end of the fiscal year and could be expanded, depending on the timing and nature of legislative action regarding the budget deficit.

"It is clear that the February forecast will likely not improve the outlook. Unfortunately, the truth is with the inaction of the legislature to agree on a long-term budget solution, I need to step up my effort to make reductions that do not require legislative action," Governor Ventura said.

In addition, the governor asks for scrutiny of all other state spending including travel, the purchase of equipment, supplies, other commodities, and contracts for professional, technical and other services.

Currently the Commissioner of Employee Relations approves all travel outside the country. The governor has expanded the approval process to include all out-of-state travel.

"I would expect that other branches of government, non-executive entities, and local units of government to also act in a fiscally responsible manner," Governor Ventura said. "If there is no resolve on the part of the legislature to take meaningful action, I will not hesitate to continue additional budget reductions."

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



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For immediate release:
Tuesday, February 12, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT VA MEDICAL CENTER FRIDAY

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura will visit the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center on Friday, February 15, to celebrate the 29th annual **National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans**.

The governor's visit:

10:00 a.m. Meet privately with medical center staff
Conference room 1B-102 (closed press)

10:15 a.m. Tour medical ward 1D and visit with extended care patients (open press)

11:00 a.m. Broadcasts weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor"
Auditorium (open press)

12:00 p.m. Departs

The VA Medical Center is located at One Veterans Drive, Minneapolis. Media interested in directions should contact the VA director's office at 612-725-2100.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, February 12, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SCALED-BACK MISSION TO CHINA

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that budget constraints have forced the administration to scale back the size and scope of his business development mission to China in June.

Eight people have been pared from the Governor's official delegation, including two student ambassadors. Two cities have also been cut from the itinerary and three days have been shaved from the trip, now slated for June 7-15.

"I've asked others to make sacrifices in order to balance the budget and I'm not about to exempt myself from those same hard choices," said Governor Ventura, who is escorting 75 Minnesota business leaders from three of the state's leading industries to learn about business and marketing opportunities in China.

The Governor still plans visits to Beijing and Shanghai, but scheduled stops in Hong Kong and Xi'an have been pulled from the itinerary as a cost-saving measure. Since the three business delegations on the mission had not planned to accompany the governor to these cities, they presented the most logical budget cuts.

Governor Ventura said it was especially difficult to remove Xi'an from the itinerary, given Minnesota's long relationship with the city. Xi'an is the capital of Shaanxi province, which has been Minnesota's sister state since 1983. "We would have preferred not to scale back at all, but our first obligation is to help Minnesota companies establish a foothold in the world's most important emerging export market."

With the mission scheduled outside the school year, two student ambassadors will no longer accompany the governor. The high school students were to have written daily stories and posted them

on a special educational web site available to schools statewide. The web site http://www.makingconnections.state.mn.us has been popular in classrooms throughout the school year and will remain active during the summer.

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For immediate release:
Monday, February 11, 2002

GOVERNOR TO VISIT MARSHALL, ST. JAMES

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura will visit southwestern Minnesota later this week to appoint judges and speak to veterans. On **Thursday, February 14**, the governor will announce judicial appointments in Marshall and St. James, and attend a luncheon at the St. James VFW. Here is the complete itinerary for the day:

10:00 a.m.	Marshall Announces Fifth District (Lyon County) judicial appointment Lyon County Courthouse, 607 W Main St.
11:00 a.m.	Flies from Marshall to St. James
12:00 noon	Speaks at veterans luncheon at St. James VFW 4 7th Street South
1:30 p.m.	Announces Fifth District (Watonwan County) judicial appointment Watonwan County Courthouse 710 Second Avenue South

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, February 6, 2002

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Ventura today unveiled a strategic framework for merging the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) and the Department of Economic Security (DES) into a single new department called the Workforce and Economic Development Department (WEDD).

"Minnesotans can no longer pretend that economic development, workforce development and education are separate issues," said Governor Ventura. "It's time to move away from separate programs of workforce development, economic development and education to a seamless service delivery system that meets the needs of both workers and employers."

The recommendations are contained in a report called "Putting It All Together" presented to the Governor today by a transition team of legislators and gubernatorial appointees, chaired by Morrie Anderson.

"We have an opportunity for new leadership, strategic direction and accountability for economic development and workforce--an opportunity not to be missed," said Morrie Anderson, chair of the transition team.

WEDD, to be led by Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch, will consist of two divisions--the Workforce Development Division and the Division of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development. Commissioner Yanisch announced that Barbara Muesing will be appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Workforce Development Division. Beginning March 4, Muesing will take a leave of absence from her current post as Associate to the Dean of the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota.

"After two years of transitional planning, the transformation must now begin as we pull together separate elements into an entirely new entity," Commissioner Yanisch said. "And the appointment of an experienced educator like Barbara Muesing reinforces the

administration's conviction that education is a primary catalyst for both workforce and economic development in our state."

The main components of the report's recommendations include:

- **Creation of the Minnesota Economic Leadership Team (MELT).** A high-level board, chaired by the Governor and composed of business, labor and community leaders. This board will be charged with developing a strategic framework for the state on both workforce and economic development issues. It will have no operational responsibilities and WEDD commissioner Rebecca Yanisch will serve as the Executive Director to the board

- **Regional Leadership.** The plan endorses a regional planning concept that is self-organizing and self-defining in terms of scope of each region and issues affecting that region. The intent is not to carve the state into a new pattern or to create another set of political jurisdictions. Virtual regions will reflect economic or labor market watersheds.

- **Executive Coordinating Group (ECG).** Commissioner Yanisch will chair a group of all agency heads who have some responsibility for workforce and economic development related programs. The executive leadership group will include at a minimum, CFL, DOLI, DHS, MnSCU, MHA, Finance and MnDOT. The commissioner will have the authority to resolve conflicts regarding economic development and workforce issues when they cross agency lines of responsibility.

- **Workforce and Economic Development Division (WEDD).** The new agency will have two primary components: 1) trade, tourism and economic development and 2) workforce development. The Trade, Tourism and Economic Development division will contain the current DTED programs, with the exception of the workforce development division. The new workforce development component will include Dislocated Workers, Jobs Skills Partnership, Adult Training, Job Service/Wagner Peyser, Rehabilitation Services, State Services for the Blind, Welfare-to-Work programs, Unemployment Insurance and Youth programs. The Disability Determination Services will be transferred to DOLI and Unemployment Insurance tax collection will be transferred to the Department of Revenue.

- **The Jobs Skills Partnership Board and the Governor's**

Workforce Development Council will remain intact under the workforce component of the new agency.

The transition team's full report can be found at http://www.mntransition.org

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For immediate release:
Monday, February 4, 2002

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL LUTHER HOUSE SEAT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today called a special election for Monday, March 4, 2002, to fill the House of Representatives seat opened by the death of Darlene Luther. Rep. Luther died last Thursday.

If a special primary is necessary, it will be Friday, February 15. Anyone interested in running must file affidavits and petitions of candidacy in Hennepin County from Tuesday, February 5 until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 8.

Darlene Luther represented District 47A, which covers Brooklyn Park.

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For immediate release:
Monday, February 4, 2002

STATE TO HONOR REPRESENTATIVE LUTHER WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that state flags at all state buildings in Minnesota be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset tomorrow, February 5th, to honor Representative Darlene Luther, who died last Thursday.

In making the proclamation, the governor noted that Representative Luther was a voice for developmentally challenged people, the safety of school children and organ donation.

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For immediate release:
Friday, February 1, 2002

CITIZEN LIAISON PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that Christine Nelson has been promoted to Director of Citizen Outreach in the Governor's Office. Nelson has been a citizen liaison in the Citizen Outreach division since Governor Ventura took office. She replaces Rachel Wobschall, who resigned to become Executive Director of Constituent Relations for the University of St. Thomas.

Nelson has focused on several issues during her time as a citizen liaison, including K-12 education, higher education and taxes and technology. She also led the implementation of the Big Plan initiative Active, Engaged Citizens. Her new job will include both managerial duties and continued citizen contact, the director's position having been restructured to save money as part of the governor's 10% cuts within his office.

Prior to working for Governor Ventura, Nelson was a software developer for Liberty Enterprises of Roseville. She has been an active member of her community, volunteering for a number of causes, including serving as her church parish's president and mentoring elementary school students. She is married with two young children.

Nelson begins her new duties on Monday, February 4.

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For immediate release:
Friday, February 1, 2002

STATE TO HONOR FOUR CHAPLAINS WITH FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today proclaimed that Minnesota flags at all state buildings be flown at half-staff to honor the four chaplains who gave their lives after saving dozens of soldiers and sailors during the sinking of the United States Army transport Dorchester in World War II. The order came as the governor declared Sunday, February 3, 2002, "Immortal Four Chaplains Day" in Minnesota.

Flags will be lowered at sunrise Sunday and flown at half-staff until sunset. Sunday is the 59th anniversary of the sinking of the Dorchester off the coast of Greenland.

The four chaplains, all of different faiths, died while helping save the lives of more than 200 men as the ship was sinking. Four years ago, the U.S. Congress and the Minnesota Legislature passed resolutions to honor the men every February 3rd.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, January 24, 2002

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES 'BIG PLAN' RESULTS WEB SITES

(St. Paul, MN) Stressing that accountability in government has always been a high priority, Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the launch of Web sites that let the public check on the progress of the governor's Big Plan and other results being achieved by state government.

"It's really pretty simple," Governor Ventura said. "The Web sites are accounts of what we've worked on, and how we've done. It's our report to our shareholders--the people of Minnesota."

Internet users can check the Ventura Administration's progress on Big Plan initiatives at www.BigPlanResults.state.mn.us. In addition, www.DepartmentResults.state.mn.us provides reports on key indicators for the strategic plans of each of the 25 cabinet-level state departments.

The Web sites report on progress for more than 250 indicators connected with the Big Plan, and with departmental strategic plans. A past benchmark, current status, and a target for the near-term future are posted whenever possible.

Each indicator also has an explanatory note, and many have hotlinks to more in-depth information. A few that are "under construction" are still awaiting data collection.

The indicators were chosen to give the governor and the public measurable ways to tell if progress was being made on important goals. The administration regularly reviews and discusses progress on these results.

"Overall, I feel very good about our progress on the Big Plan," Governor Ventura said. "Obviously there's still a lot of work to do, but in several areas, like light rail and tax reform, we're meeting our goals."

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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For immediate release:
Friday, January 18, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA TO PROMOTE MINNESOTA TOURISM AT WORLD'S LARGEST TRAVEL SHOW IN BERLIN

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura will travel to Germany this March to promote Minnesota at the world's largest travel exhibition in Berlin. On Sunday, March 17, the governor will address a reception for major German tour operators at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Daniel Coats. The following day, he will address 1,000 German tour operators, travel agents and travel media representatives at an event hosted by the Great Lakes of North America, an association that promotes travel from abroad to Minnesota and other member states.

The two-day visit is in conjunction with the International Tourism Exchange, or ITB (Internationale Tourismus-Boerse), which attracts exhibitors representing 180 countries and 60,000 tour operators, most of them from Germany. The governor will visit the Minnesota and Great Lakes booths at the exhibition.

"Germany is a major international tourism market that provides Minnesota with its third largest source of overseas visitors every year," said Governor Ventura. "Given the impact on the travel industry following the events of September 11, it's more important than ever to get out the 'Explore Minnesota' message to our European market."

Governor Ventura made a commitment last year to attend ITB Berlin, and the administration had hoped to include the visit as part of a broader trade mission to key countries in the European Union. However, budget constraints forced the administration to scale back the trip in order to keep costs at a minimum.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism is leading the state's delegation, which includes Mall of America, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors

Association and Bluefin Bay, a North Shore resort at Tofte. These partners are providing financial support for the Minnesota exhibit.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

WEB SITE OPENS MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE YEAR-ROUND

(St. Paul, MN)--The historic Minnesota Governor's Residence is now open to visitors year-round through a new web site created for the Governor's Residence Council by the Department of Administration.

The web site (www.admin.state.mn.us/buildings/residence) includes a short history of the house, a listing of some famous visitors, photographs of the grounds and an outline of improvements recommended in Governor Ventura's capital budget proposal to the upcoming session of the Legislature.

The $4.2 million in funding targets four major areas: safety and security, energy efficiency, historic preservation and facilities for official events and activities. These needs were first identified in a 1983 study prepared for the Governor's Residence Council. The study was updated in 1997.

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For immediate release:
Friday, January 9, 2002

GOVERNOR TO ANNOUNCE BUDGET PLAN

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura, Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith,
Finance Commissioner Pamela Wheelock

What: News conference to announce budget-balancing plan

When: Thursday, January 10, 2002 at 10:45 a.m.

Where: Harold E. Stassen (Revenue) Building, Skjegstad Room
600 N. Robert St., St. Paul

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, January 2, 2002

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SOLON AND KELLY SENATE SEATS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today called a special election for Tuesday, January 29, 2002 to fill the Senate seats vacated by the death of Sam Solon and the resignation of Randy Kelly. Solon, who passed away late last week, was in the Senate for 29 years. Kelly resigned to take over as the mayor of St. Paul.

Governor Ventura issued a writ of special election today for both senate seats. If a special primary is necessary, it will be Tuesday, January 15. Anyone interested in running must file affidavits and petitions of candidacy in Ramsey County, for District 67 and St. Louis County for District 7 from Thursday, January 3 until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8.

Solon represented Senate District 7, which covers Duluth, and Kelly represented Senate District 67, which covers part of St. Paul.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, December 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ROE TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Minneapolis, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Katherian Roe to a Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Minneapolis in Hennepin County. The opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Roberta Levy on January 7, 2002. Sixty-eight people applied for this vacancy.

Roe is a senior litigator and chief of training for the Office of the Federal Defender in Minneapolis, a position she has held since 2000. She has been an assistant federal defender since 1989. Roe was an attorney and teaching fellow at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. from 1987 to 1989, and a staff attorney and fellow with the Wisconsin Judicare Indian Law Program in Wausau from 1984 to 1987. Roe earned her LL.M. Trial Advocacy degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992, her juris doctorate degree from Albany Law School of Union University in Albany, New York in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from State University of New York at Albany in 1981.

"What really impressed me about Katherian is that she became successful on her own. She came from a humble background and worked hard to put herself through college and law school," Governor Ventura said. "She has continued to work hard as a lawyer, earning praise from federal judges as well as her opponents in the U.S. Attorney's office."

Roe is a member of the Federal Bar Association and the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been a presenter at the Street Law Program at Edison High School in Minneapolis, a participant in the Mock Trial Program for Inner City Youth, served on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Youth Law based in San Francisco, California, and was a coach and judge for the Menominee Indian High School Mock Trial Team in Menominee, Wisconsin.

Roe, 42, was born in Kansas City, Missouri and resides in Robbinsdale with her family.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, December 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS RANCOURT TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Robert Rancourt to a new trial court judgeship in the Tenth Judicial District. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the first of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for Center City in Chisago County. Thirty-five people applied for this position.

Rancourt is a solo practitioner in Lindstrom. He has been a self-employed attorney since 1979. He was assistant vice president of commercial lending at the Casco Bank and Trust Company in Portland, Maine in 1979 and an associate counsel with Space Center, Inc. in St. Paul from 1977 to 1979. Rancourt earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University Law School in St. Paul in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Miami in 1973.

"Sometimes a person fits a position," Governor Ventura said. "Bob fits this position like a glove. He has lived and worked in the Center City/Lindstrom community for over 20 years and has tried many cases in the Chisago County courthouse. Bob will not have a huge learning curve because of his knowledge of the court's caseload."

Rancourt is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Minnesota Society for Criminal Justice and the Minnesota State Bar Association. He is also a volunteer youth baseball coach, a trustee for St. Bridget of Sweden Church and a volunteer speaker at high schools and grade schools.

Rancourt, 50, was born in Biddeford, Maine and resides in Lindstrom with his wife, Margaret. They have four children, Robert Jr., 24, Rebecca, 22, Joseph, 19, and Shawn, 14.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, December 27, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced six finalists for two Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancies.

The first vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Terry Dempsey on February 28, 2002. The Supreme Court continued the chambers of this judgeship for the city of St. James in Watonwan County. The commission named Allison Krehbiel Baskfield, Michael Kircher and Bruce Young finalists for this position.

Baskfield, Madelia, is an assistant Fifth Judicial District public defender in Madelia, a position she has held since 1999. She was an assistant Minneapolis city attorney and legal advisor to the Minneapolis Police Department from 1995 to 1998, acting deputy Minneapolis city attorney in 1995 and an assistant Minneapolis city attorney from 1992 to 1995, and an associate attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of LaBore and Juliano in 1992. Baskfield earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1991 and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1984. She also did some undergraduate coursework at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas.

Kircher, St. James, is an attorney and partner in the St. James law firm of Sunde, Olson, Kircher and Zender. He has been an attorney with the firm, and its predecessor, Piper, Sunde, Olson and Koch since 1984. Kircher was also a Fifth Judicial District public defender from 1989 to 1999 and a Watonwan County public defender from 1984 to 1999. Kircher earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1983 and his bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1980.

Young, Madelia, is an attorney and partner in the Madelia law firm of Murphy and Young and has been the Madelia city attorney since

2000. He was an assistant Madelia city attorney from 1977 through 1999. Young has been a partner in the Murphy and Young law firm and its predecessor, Manahan, Murphy and Young, since 1979 and was an attorney with the Madelia law firm of Manahan and Murphy from 1976 to 1979. Young earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of St. Thomas in 1968.

The second vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable George Marshall on April 1, 2002. The Supreme Court continued the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Marshall in Lyon County. The commission named Leland Bush, Cecil Naatz and James Olson finalists for this position.

Bush, Russell, has been a self-employed attorney in Tyler since 1979. He was an attorney in the law office of David M. Watson in Tyler from 1976 to 1979 and was a part-time business law instructor at Minnesota State University, Marshall (then called Southwest State University) in 1977. Bush earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of science degree from Southwest State University in 1973. He also did some undergraduate coursework at Macalester College in St. Paul.

Naatz, Marshall, is the managing attorney in the Fifth Judicial District public defender's office in Marshall, a position he has held since 1996. He was a part-time assistant Fifth Judicial District public defender in Marshall from 1983 to 1995 as well as a solo practitioner in Marshall from 1985 to 1995 and an associate attorney with the law firm of Blaufuss and Stoneberg in Marshall from 1980 to 1984. Naatz earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1980, his bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees from Minnesota State University, Mankato (then called Mankato State University) in 1976, and his associate of arts degree from Austin Community College in Austin in 1974.

Olson, New Ulm, is an attorney with the law firm of Berens, Rodenberg and O'Connor in New Ulm, a position he has held since 1972. He was an attorney with the Harrington Law Firm in Chicago, Illinois from 1969 to 1972. Olson earned his juris doctorate degree from DePaul University Law School in Chicago in 1969 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary's University in Winona in 1966.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-

attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 21 applications for these two judicial vacancies.

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For immediate release:
Friday, December 21, 2001

GOVERNOR TO GIVE STATE OF THE STATE DIRECTLY TO MINNESOTANS

(St. Paul, MN) In a departure from tradition, Governor Jesse Ventura will give his State of the State address live from the Governor's Residence in a satellite broadcast that will be accessible across the state.

Today the governor announced that the 2002 State of the State address will be Thursday, January 3, 2002 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. The broadcast will be available at the following satellite coordinates (KU-band):

TelStar 6
Transponder 13 full
Audio: 6.2, 6.8

The satellite window will open at **6:15 p.m**., and the governor will begin speaking at **6:31 p.m.** The speech will also be available on the Internet at www.governor.state.mn.us

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For immediate release:
Friday, December 14, 2001

GOVERNOR TO CALL SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL KELLY SENATE SEAT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today said he plans to call a special election for Tuesday, January 29, 2002, to fill the Senate seat being vacated by Randy Kelly. Kelly, who was elected mayor of St. Paul in November, has given the governor his resignation, effective January 1, 2002.

On January 2, the governor intends to issue a writ of special election. If a special primary is necessary, it will be Tuesday, January 15. Anyone interested in running must file affidavits and petitions of candidacy in Ramsey County from Thursday, January 3 until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8.

Kelly represents Senate District 67, which covers part of St. Paul.

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GOVERNOR, LEGISLATORS ANNOUNCE JOINT TASK FORCE ON HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura, Senator John Hottinger (DFL), and Representative Fran Bradley (R), along with Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm and Commissioner of Human Services Michael O'Keefe, today announced the formation of a Joint Task Force between the Ventura Administration and the Minnesota Legislature to study the rising costs and quality of health care in Minnesota.

Governor Ventura cited problems such as escalating premiums, limited consumer involvement in decision-making, and lack of public consensus about requirements for a health care system as the reasons for forming the tri-partisan coalition.

The governor also encouraged the creation of a community advisory group composed of policy leaders, providers, business owners and consumers to provide feedback to the Joint Task Force.

"We need to reinstate Minnesota's leadership in health care by taking a long-term, thoughtful approach to finding solutions for the health care dilemma," said Governor Ventura. "This is a long-term strategy, focused on meeting Minnesota's needs for years to come."

Additional members of the Joint Task Force include:

Senator Linda Berglin(DFL)

Senator Dallas Sams (DFL)

Senator Michelle Fischbach (R)

Senator Sheila Kiscaden (R)

Representative Bill Haas (R)

Representative Carl Jacobson (R)

Representative Neva Walker (DFL)

Representative Tom Huntley (DFL)

Commissioner of Commerce Jim Bernstein

Commissioner of Employee Relations Julien Carter

Commissioner of Finance Pamela Wheelock

click here to view Governor Ventura's remarks

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, November 30, 2001

GOVERNOR TO TESTIFY BEFORE CONGRESS

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura

What: Testify before the Committee on the Judiciary (H.R. 3288, "Fairness in Antitrust in National Sports (FANS) Act of 2001")

When: 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2001

Where: Room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, November 21, 2001

GOVERNOR, COMMISSIONERS RELEASE OVERVIEW OF ANTI-TERRORISM AGENDA

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver, and Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm today offered an overview of the Ventura Administration's legislative proposal on terrorism.

The proposal includes initiatives that strengthen Minnesota's ability to more effectively respond to serious public health and safety emergencies, such as terrorism. *Click here for Department of Health fact sheet, click here for Department of Public Safety fact sheet.*

"Since September 11th, my administration has been looking at every possible avenue regarding our public health and safety policies to determine how we can better protect Minnesota from acts of terrorism," said Governor Ventura. "I believe these policy initiatives will improve our state's ability to respond to emergencies."

"Terrorists need three things to operate successfully: money, information and legal identification," said Commissioner Weaver. "We believe this proposal addresses all three and will make it that much more difficult to operate in Minnesota."

Added Commissioner Malcolm: "The public health system is facing new challenges as a result of terrorist activity. The policy changes we're proposing will improve the system's ability to protect the health of all Minnesotans should the unthinkable occur."

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 16, 2001

Statement from Governor Jesse Ventura

Late Friday afternoon I met with Minnesota Twins owner Carl Pohlad to discuss contraction.

I asked Mr. Pohlad if Major League Baseball would delay contraction and give us more time to work toward a solution to save the Twins. While Mr. Pohlad assured me that he would call commissioner Bud Selig and discuss my request, he gave no assurances that anything could be done to delay a decision.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 15, 2001

GOVERNOR TO BROADCAST RADIO SHOW FROM NEW VISIONS CHARTER SCHOOL

Who: Governor Jesse Ventura and Lieutenant Governor Mae Schunk

What: Tour school and broadcast weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor"

When: Friday, November 16, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: New Visions Charter School, 1800 2nd St. NE, Minneapolis

The governor will tour the school and broadcast his show to an audience of teachers who are learning techniques being applied at the school.

New Visions is a charter school that uses brain-stimulation activities and technology to improve student achievement.

For more information about New Visions visit: www.actg.org

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, November 13, 2001

GOVERNOR PLACES CHINA MISSION BACK ON TRACK

(St. Paul, MN) Applauding the World Trade Organization's decision to accord full membership to China during its Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar this past weekend, Governor Jesse Ventura today announced renewed plans to lead a business development mission to China on June 7-18, 2002.

The trade mission was originally scheduled to begin earlier this month but was postponed following the September 11 terrorist events.

"While the full economic impact of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington is still a little hazy, one thing is crystal clear: We can't allow terrorism to further harm our economy," said Governor Ventura. "Minnesota needs to get on with the business of business. And that's why it's more important than ever that we make our mark in China."

As the world's second-largest economy, China holds great promise for Minnesota exports, especially agriculture and processed foods, information technology and medical products. Minnesota's exports to China increased more than 88 percent over the past five years, making China the state's third-largest trading partner, up from eighth-largest in 1997.

"I've said all along that China is the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st Century. China's membership in the WTO means even more and better prospects for Minnesota companies," Governor Ventura said. "Now that the door has finally been opened in China, we can't, and we won't, allow terrorists to slam it in our face."

The June trade mission will follow the same itinerary and format as originally planned, said Tony Lorusso, director of export

promotion for the Minnesota Trade Office, the state agency responsible for planning and coordinating the mission.

The mission includes three business delegations with a total of 75 business leaders, representing several of the state's major industries: agriculture and process foods, information technology and medical products and services.

"We targeted these three industries because they are strong Minnesota industries and they have potential for significant growth in China," Mr. Lorusso said. "But during our visit, we'll also be watching for emerging opportunities in other market sectors."

The June mission primarily will include events and meetings with business and government leaders in Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an and Hong Kong and also will focus on strengthening ties with Shaanxi Province, Minnesota's sister-state since 1983.

With 75 business leaders, a media contingent, and selected state officials, Governor Ventura's mission to China will be the largest business development mission ever organized by any state in the United States. The scope of this mission reflects the significance of the China market and its potential economic impact for Minnesota companies.

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Tuesday, November 13, 2001

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES STADIUM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced his six appointments to the joint legislative task force looking into the state's sports facilities needs.

The governor's six appointees are:

Harvey Mackay, chairman and CEO of Mackay Envelope Corporation;
Dean Barkley, director of Minnesota State Planning;
Dorothy Bridges, president and CEO of Franklin Bank;
Karla Blomberg, co-chair of Minnesotans for Major League Baseball;
Pam Wheelock, commissioner of the Department of Finance;
Larry Buegler, former banker and development official.

The six members will join the 12 appointed by the House and Senate. The task force will begin work immediately, and hopes to have a report ready by the start of the next legislative session.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Prairie Island Signing Ceremony
Prairie Island Reservation
October 16, 2002

President Bennett, members of the Indian Affairs Council, tribal representatives, honored guests.

Thank you for hosting us today and thank you for the lovely gifts.

This is a proud day for the state's native people and Minnesota state government as well.

Incredibly, since Minnesota became a state in 1858 there has never been an official affirmation of a government-to-government relationship between Minnesota and the Indian tribal governments.

As Governor of the State of Minnesota I am proud that today we will begin a new era by the signing of an executive order that recognizes the unique legal relationship between our great state and the Indian tribes.

Like a lot of our citizens, when I was first elected governor I didn't know a lot about our government's relationship with tribes.

However, over the past four years I have had many opportunities to interact with tribal members and to visit some reservations.

While we haven't always agreed on solutions to our problems, I want you to know that I appreciate the fact that you have always treated me with great respect. My visits to reservations, and your visits to the governor's residence in St. Paul, have been some of the most enjoyable experiences of my time in office.

I always tell people that it is never too late to learn about something --and indeed-learning about the special relationship between the tribes and our state government has been a real eye opener for me.

I hope that today we have done something that will help to build an even stronger foundation for respect, trust and cooperation between our respective governments.

There is a great deal of hope found in what we have done here today, but as a Stephen King character once observed, "Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

So be it for our hopes and the executive order that I have signed today. May its spirit live on with our descendants so that someday 150 years from now the story is told of this day around a circle of friends.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
University of Havana
Havana, Cuba
September 27, 2002

Good afternoon.

I am very honored to speak to you today.

I want to thank you, and all the people of the Republic of Cuba, for being such kind hosts.

As I was growing up in my neighborhood I was pretty much a regular kid who loved to play sports and hang out with my friends.

We loved to follow our baseball team, and in those days our team, the Minnesota Twins, had something very unique.

In the 1960s, when I was a young boy, my baseball heroes were Cuban born players like Tony Oliva, Camilo Pascual, Pedro Ramos, Zoilo Versalles, Julio Becquer and Sandy Valdespino.

They all played for the Minnesota Twins.

In fact, did you know that legend has it that the owner of the Minnesota Twins once had the rights to a very good Cuban baseball player by the name of Fidel Castro?

Well, it never worked out that Fidel Castro could play baseball in the United States because times changed and ***things*** happened to change the course of history.

It is sad that baseball fans do not have the everyday opportunity to see some of the most talented players in the world compete in our major leagues.

Why can't our leaders see that we would all benefit if Cuba actually had a baseball team in the Major Leagues?

But could it happen in the future?

I believe it could.

Never in all my dreams did I think that I would be the Governor of the State of Minnesota.

Never in all my dreams did I think that I would travel to the Republic of Cuba and be able to address an audience at the University of Havana.

Never in all my dreams did I think that I would grow up and be criticized by the President of the United States for wanting to establish a relationship with the people of Cuba.

But here I am.

Jesse Ventura, former Navy SEAL, former wrestler, former actor, former mayor, and former radio host--in Havana--working hard to bring the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba to a more civilized level of cooperation and communication.

It just goes to show you that anything is possible if you believe in yourself and you believe in others.

When I was first elected Governor I promised the people of my state that I would do what I could to help them sell our products to the world.

I told them that I believed that by establishing trade relationships with countries around the globe we can create good paying jobs in our state and improve the quality of life in the countries we trade with.

In the last four years I have traveled on trade missions to Japan, Canada, Mexico and just this summer to the Republic of China.

Incredibly, my state's trade with these countries has grown faster than the overall rate for the entire United States.

In fact, with just Mexico alone our exports have increased by 65% over the past four years.

Today, I am in your beautiful country.

I am here in the hope that we can do business together.

I am here because I believe that we can, and should, work toward

bringing our countries together again.

I am here because I believe that if we are successful business partners there is a better chance that we can someday be better friends.

I know that many think that I am naive.

But I don't think so.

I have worked hard all my life and when you work hard good things happen.

As I said earlier, I come from very humble beginnings.

My father had only eight years of education.

But he worked hard and good things happened to him.

He married my mother.

He had a good job.

He dreamed that some day he would own a lake cabin, and his dream came true.

My message to you today is not only to dream, but to work hard to make those dreams come true.

And be assured, that while we may not agree on some very fundamental governing principles, ***someday,*** maybe we can, ***officially,*** be friends again.

I believe that.

I hope you do too.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
National Press Photographers Association
Thunderbird Hotel, Bloomington
June 28, 2002



Good morning.

It feels good to stand in front of a bunch of media types and not have to worry about answering questions - I've never had a problem getting my picture taken.

I know you're the people who are quietly doing your jobs, getting the pictures while the reporters breeze in and get all the glory.

In fact, once in a while, just before one of my news conferences starts, I like to peek out into the room and see who's there.

I always see the camera guys and still photographers, all set up and ready to go.

But when I come out for real five minutes later, all the reporters have magically appeared, zipping in at the last minute like they had all this important stuff to do and couldn't be bothered to come when

you guys did.

O.K., I'm exaggerating just a little, but you know what I'm talking about.

I've always said I consider the photographers the real workers, the ones getting their hands dirty.

I'm sure you've all heard about the so-called jackal passes, which was our little joke on the capitol press corps.

Well guess who were the only ones who got the joke? The photographers.

They proudly displayed their jackal passes, while everyone else was just so outraged that their journalistic integrity was so compromised and their profession was being called into question and all of that.

But you got the joke, and to me, that's typical of people who work behind the scenes but don't get much credit.

During my three and a half years as governor, that's one thing that has surprised me - how much great work is going on behind the scenes, and how many excellent employees are doing the people's work.

I can start with my commissioners.

You ask anyone in the state to name five commissioners in my cabinet and they'd have a hard time coming up with more than a couple of names.

But those people keep this state going.

Each commissioner is one of the top experts in his or her field.

As a matter of fact, Skip Humphrey, one of the candidates I defeated in the 1998 election, later told me that he thinks I assembled the best cabinet in the country.

And even though they're all experts, they can put things in simple terms so everyone, including me, can understand what they're talking about.

Before I got this job, I didn't know what the commissioner of revenue did. I figured it had something to do with money and taxes, but it didn't sound like a very interesting job to me.

Then I met Matt Smith and appointed him commissioner, and he took some of my ideas, added his own, and helped bring about the biggest property tax reform this state has seen.

I was so appreciative of Matt and his staff that a few days after I signed that historic tax bill I stopped by the Revenue department and personally thanked all the employees.

Because even though all that expertise of the commissioners starts at the top, it works its way all the way down through the departments.

In the Finance department, there's a man named Peter Sausen, an assistant commissioner who's been there for years.

Peter had always been toying with a way for the state to help the Twins build a new ballpark without sticking the taxpayers with the bill.

Well one day he ran the numbers and it worked, and he came up with a plan in which the state would use its good credit to back a loan for the team.

It was a great idea, and it became the Ventura Administration's stadium plan, and the legislature passed it.

(We still have to wait and see if the Twins are going to come up with their share of the money).

But my point is, there's an example of an unheralded, behind-the-scenes employee quietly doing a great job to help the state.

And you'll find people like that all throughout state government. From the folks at the department of military affairs and the National Guard bailing out flooded homes, to the Housing Finance Agency creating affordable housing for people who can really use it.

You probably have someone in your newsroom who is the voice of sanity when things are going crazy - the one person who holds the place together while the big bosses are making outrageous demands.

We have a lot of those steady people in state government, and that has been one of the things that I really enjoyed about my time here:

how people are willing to work hard without getting a lot of the glory.

Part of my job as governor is to take credit when we as a team do something good, and take the blame when we screw up.

I knew that coming in, and I've been ready for whatever comes.

And there has been plenty of . . . stuff.

But there's been much more good than bad, and for that I can thank all the good people behind the scenes.

I hope all of you get the credit you deserve, and I don't mean just winning awards like Photographer of the Year.

I mean getting a thank you for when you make that extra effort to get the shot nobody else has, or for when you stay late because no one else can.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
National Electronics Product Stewardship
Radisson City Center Hotel, St. Paul
June 24, 2002

I am very pleased to welcome you all to Minnesota. Thank you to the Office of Environmental Assistance for leading Minnesota's product stewardship initiatives, and to OEA Director Sherry Enzler for inviting me here this morning.

Product stewardship is an innovative approach that brings government and industry together to determine joint solutions to meeting environmental challenges.

This group of committed manufacturers, states and environmental organizations has been meeting for a year now, and I understand that you are close to reaching an agreement to establish a nationwide recycling program for old computers and televisions.

I am glad to see so many electronics companies involved. We appreciate your leadership. By helping to establish a national recycling program, you demonstrate that your companies are on the cutting edge when it comes to environmental stewardship as well as electronics.

I am also glad to see so many states and local governments here today. We all face growing piles of waste electronics without viable options for managing them. The most effective and efficient management program will be one that benefits all of our communities, and doesn't rely on government funding for results.

I am also pleased to see retailers at this meeting. In Minnesota, we have worked with Best Buy, Target and Circuit City to figure out how to make it easy for people to bring their old electronics to retail collection sites. It makes a lot of sense to me to make recycling the old one as easy as buying the new one.

I appreciate the environmental community's focus on making the products we buy and use less toxic. It is important to handle our resources and wastes responsibly, not just in a few states, or a few countries, but across the world.

This spring, Minnesota renewed its contract with a local recycler -- Asset Recovery Corporation -- to manage all of government's own old computers and electronics within North America, rather than exporting hazardous components overseas.

This product stewardship initiative involves all the right partners. When you find ways to design products differently, to get products and materials back for reuse, and to develop new markets, you don't just solve a problem--you create opportunities.

I look forward to hearing what comes out of your meetings today and in September. And I look forward to getting my old TV and computer out of my own basement and back into your hands for recycling.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Supreme Court appointments
Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul
June 6, 2002

(News Release)

Good morning. Today I am announcing the appointment of two Associate Justices to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

It did not take me long as Governor to recognize the significance and long-lasting legacy governors leave in the appointment of judges. The year after I leave office, the legislature can undo the initiatives I implemented. Policy-makers in the state agencies that I oversee can take the state in a different direction.

But the judges I appoint to the various courts in Minnesota will continue to serve the citizens of the state long after I leave the governor's office. Since the judges I appoint will be on the bench for many years to come, I take my role in the appointment of judges very seriously.

For the people who appear before these judges, their case is the most important thing in their life at that moment. For that reason, I try to appoint people to the bench who will listen and be respectful.

For the lawyers who try the cases before these judges, I try to appoint judges who will be consistent, fair and timely in their rulings.[1]

In order to preserve and build confidence in our judicial system, I try to appoint judges who are first and foremost good citizens and understand that, while there is a respect for the office, respect for the person wearing the robe is achieved by how the person conducts him or herself.

Since taking office, I have personally interviewed hundreds of candidates for over 60 judgeships. These candidates have had to go through a rigorous selection process before they get to my office.

Although there is no requirement that applicants for the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court go before a judicial merit commission, this process has worked well at the district court level and has provided me with top caliber candidates. I have used a similar process for the Court of Appeals and now for the Supreme Court.

Appointments to the Supreme Court are the pinnacle of a governor's selections to the judicial branch. It is a duty that I take especially seriously. The Supreme Court is not only the final judicial authority in the state but also charts the direction that the entire court system will follow.

Supreme Court Justices must be intelligent, thoughtful, ethical and have a solid legal background. But in addition, they must make a positive impact on the judicial system through leadership.

Our Supreme Court in Minnesota is composed of these types of people. Two of them are leaving. Justice Edward Stringer and Justice Joan Ericksen Lancaster have both made tremendous contributions to the legal field and the community during their tenure on the high court. I want to thank them both for their service.

Justice Stringer, best wishes in your next endeavor.

Justice Lancaster, keep up the great work as you move to the federal bench.

When I learned that Justices Stringer and Lancaster were leaving the state Supreme Court, I asked eight exceptional people to review risumis and make recommendations to me. These people are:

George Soule, who chaired the committee,
Hennepin County Chief Public Defender Leonardo Castro,
Alan Eidsness,
Retired Chief Justice A. M. Sandy Keith,
Richard Pemberton,
Former Congressman Tim Penny,
Barbara Runchey, and
Jan Symchych

The committee reviewed 74 risumis and invited 16 candidates for an interview and after lengthy deliberation forwarded five finalists to me. This committee did a great job in a short time. I'm also sure they had many people giving them advice every step of the way. Thank you for your work.

The committee recommended five finalists to me:

Judge G. Barry Anderson,
Annamarie Daley,
Judge Sam Hanson,
Judge Harriet Lansing, and
Helen Meyer.

I interviewed the finalists on Tuesday and found them all to be first-rate candidates. I am confident that any one of them could join the Supreme Court and do an excellent job. But I was only able to pick two of them.

The first appointment I am making today is Judge Sam Hanson. I appointed Judge Hanson to the Minnesota Court of Appeals in October 2000. He had been a lawyer with the law firm of Briggs and Morgan in Minneapolis for 34 years prior to going to the Court of Appeals and had an extensive background in business and commercial litigation as an attorney. Judge Hanson is universally respected and brings an entrepreneurial background to the court.

It is only fitting that I make these announcements in this rotunda that is surrounded by numerous pillars. Judge Hanson is a pillar of integrity and vision.

As a Judge of the Court of Appeals, he has distinguished himself as a person who writes his opinions clearly and concisely yet with a full analysis of the issues.

Earlier I talked about the legacy of a governor's judicial appointments. Judge Hanson's legacy on the Supreme Court will be immediate, and it will be felt for many years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the bench, Judge Sam Hanson.

The second appointment I am making today is Helen Meyer. Helen has 20 years of experience as a lawyer in private practice and is a civil trial attorney. Helen has taken risks in her career. She built her own law firm. She has served on law-related committees and has tackled tough and sometimes unpopular issues in her profession and worked to see them through.

Helen is also a pillar of strength. In addition, I know she will work well with the other justices on the Supreme Court.

Helen also relates well to the common person. Her clients come from a variety of backgrounds, education levels and professions. In

writing her opinions, Helen will make sure they make sense to everyone.

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the bench, Helen Meyer.

Since one of my appointees to the Supreme Court is currently a Court of Appeals Judge, there will be a vacancy on the Minnesota Court of Appeals. A month ago, I filled a vacancy on the Court of Appeals with the appointment of Natalie Hudson. At her announcement I said it was the toughest decision I had to make because all four finalists were so good.

To fill Judge Hanson's seat on the Court of Appeals, I am appointing Judge Wilhelmina "Mimi" Wright.

I appointed Judge Wright to the Second Judicial District bench in Ramsey County in September 2000. Prior to going to the bench, she was an assistant U.S. Attorney in Minneapolis where she prosecuted federal criminal cases. Before that, she was an attorney with the Hogan and Hartson law firm in Washington, D.C.

When I appointed Judge Wright to the Ramsey County bench, I described her as a rising star. At that time I didn't know how quickly that star would rise. In less than two years Judge Wright has distinguished herself as a hard-working judge who treats people fairly and with respect. She will bring her intellect, work ethic and sense of fairness to the Court of Appeals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the bench, Judge Wilhelmina "Mimi" Wright.

I want to thank the Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals and the large group of citizens who came to these announcements today.

Are there any questions from the media?

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Greater Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Association
The Mayflower Hotel, Washington D.C.
April 23, 2002

Good afternoon.

It's always a pleasure to play the role of *Jesse the Tourism Governor* and sell the State of Minnesota to potential visitors.

Since I was elected governor I have placed an emphasis on diversifying Minnesota's economy.

Don't worry we still have cows. Our farmers still raise corn, soybeans and sugar beets and I still raise hell with the legislature.

But as you know we can't put all our economic eggs in one basket and so I think it is important for us to promote our state as a tremendous destination for conventions and vacations.

While our agri-business economy is still strong our travel and tourism industry is almost threatening to take over as the number one economic activity.

The reason of course is that we not only have a lot to offer businesses but we have a lot to offer convention visitors and tourists.

Since humans first figured out that they could give the guy in next cave something he wanted, and get something desirable in exchange, the world has been a marketplace.

Fast forward to the 21st century. Now the most important thing we exchange is ideas, information, points of view.

While technology has connected us in ways the generation before us never dreamed of, high tech communications will never replace in-

person communications.

People still need to gather together to exchange ideas, keep current with their field, and meet the people they do business with.

Just last month I was at the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin, Germany. This exchange is known throughout the world as the largest trade fair for the global tourism industry.

Talk about getting people together to exchange ideas and information--I'm sure that many of you know just how huge this event is.

On a smaller scale, all the teleconference technology in the world will not keep American businesses from gathering their employees from across the country for corporate conferences. Professionals from every field get together to share ideas. And there is no doubt in my mind that one of the best places in this country to get these people together is in Minnesota.

If nothing else they can walk the streets of our cities and try to figure out just who the heck these people are that elected Jesse Ventura Governor.

This summer, for instance, the National Square Dance Convention will be held in the Twin Cities. Twelve thousand people do-si-doing through the streets of St. Paul...can you imagine?

But seriously, you know without me telling you, that it's important for people to gather to do business...and to have fun.

While September 11th had a devastating effect on travel and tourism it is now time for us to move on and get people, associations and business on the move. The freedom to move about in pursuit of happiness and success is fundamental to our democracy and as the Brits often say, 'we can't let the bastards win'.

So bring your conventions to Minnesota where we guarantee you will find happiness and success.

We have the facilities and a location that make it easy to gather people together. And we have plenty of enticements to keep you for a few days of fun after the business meetings are over.

It's easy to get to Minnesota.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is a major hub of the upper Midwest, with convenient flights from across the country and

direct flights from Asia and Europe.

We all hate hassles at the airport, so it's interesting to note that our airport ranked first among U.S. airports in customer satisfaction in a survey of 90,000 travelers last year.

Just a couple of minutes from the airport is the Mall of America. The Mall celebrates its 10th birthday next summer. It's still the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the country, and it still draws visitors from around the world.

Both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul are just ten minutes from the airport. And both offer convention centers and hotel accommodations to host any size meetings and conventions.

Greg Ortale has told you the details about the exciting expansion at the Minneapolis Convention Center. But I do want to put a plug in for all the other great things going on in downtown Minneapolis.

It's home to Vikings football, Timberwolves and Lynx basketball, and Twins baseball. It's got a very exciting collection of theaters, and numerous top-rated restaurants. From the Convention Center, you can stroll down Nicollet Mall and enjoy the shops and sidewalk restaurants.

Just across town in downtown St. Paul is the Touchstone Energy Place in the RiverCentre Complex. It's got a great location, perched above the Mississippi River and is located in a complex that is also home to the Minnesota Wild hockey team.

Downtown St. Paul is home to the Science Museum of Minnesota, an exciting new building overlooking the Mississippi. Concerts, opera and Broadway touring shows are regularly scheduled at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

People have grown reluctant to spend time away from their families, and a Minnesota conference can be the start to a relaxing family getaway.

One of my personal favorites in Minnesota is its great fishing. As Governor, one of my official duties is to spend a day fishing at the Governor's Fishing Opener each May, to kick off our fishing season. It's a tough job, but I'm up to it. Visitors can find good fishing right in the Twin Cities area, or they can take a few days to explore other great fishing spots.

Another of my favorites is golf. I can tell you from personal links

experience that Minnesota has some of the nation's top courses, cut out of the birch and pine forests. There are also great golf resorts not too far from the Twin Cities, and terrific championship-level courses right in the metropolitan area itself. In fact, the Twin Cities area will host the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club this August and the Solheim Cup at Interlachen Country Club in September.

The Brainerd Lakes area has a reputation for its great golf resorts, and some of them also have meeting facilities and cater to smaller groups.

Lakeside resorts are a Minnesota classic, and a resort stay is a longstanding tradition in many families. It's a perfect add-on to a convention visit to our state.

And then there's our biggest lake, Superior, the greatest of the Great Lakes. The drive along its North Shore has been designated as an All-American Road for its spectacular scenery, one of only 15 in the country. The city of Duluth is the gateway to the lakeshore. This thriving town has become a popular tourism destination and, by the way, has a good convention center of its own overlooking Superior.

Jut an hour south of the Twin Cities is Rochester, known for the quality medical care and research provided by the Mayo Clinic. Rochester's convention center has facilities for smaller national and regional groups.

In southern Minnesota, near Rochester, you'll find rolling bluffs bordering the Mississippi River. On our northern border are the pristine lakes of Voyageurs National Park. In between, you'll find everything you need for a perfect vacation.

And finally, if you are up early in the morning a week from today, tune in Good Morning America.

Charlie Gibson and Diane Sawyer will be doing the show from a historic Minnesota river town called Stillwater and will also feature some of Minnesota's greatest attractions, including me.

Thank you.

Now I would be happy to respond to some of your questions about Minnesota or anything else for that matter.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Metro North Chamber of Commerce
Tournament Players Club, Blaine
April 11, 2002

Good afternoon.

It's good to be in Anoka County and the north suburban area. I like being around people who not only have common sense, but a practical approach to the future.

I like working with suburban and rural Minnesotans who won't let petty politics get in the way of what is best for the long term well-being of the state as a whole.

I appreciate your support of a multi-modal transportation policy that looks beyond highways as the only answer to congestion.

Incredibly, our legislature, especially the Republican leadership in the house, doesn't seem to get it.

We have this wonderful opportunity to build a commuter rail system in the Northstar Corridor with the federal government picking up most of the cost and they are saying no.

Can you believe that?

For $120 million the State of Minnesota can leverage another $147 million of federal funds to build this project. And **most** of the republicans just say no. I guess their idea of a modern transportation system is to blacktop the whole state.

The sad thing is that if we say 'no' to the money from the feds, I guarantee you that it will end up in another state that is more forward thinking than Minnesota.

If that happens, we should get ready for the Tim Pawlenty-Dick Day transportation plan, which will require huge increases in gas taxes to pay for the blacktopping of Minnesota.

Maybe we could make our "roads only" transportation plan part of the farm conservation program and pay farmers a supplement for every acre that they take out of production and put into blacktop. Think of the erosion we can prevent.

Seriously, I know that this all sounds silly but for the life of me I cannot understand why we can't agree that the future of transportation is more than roads.

Enlightened people understand that modern transportation requires more than roads. In order to preserve our land and natural resources we must make use of railways and bus ways as alternatives to roads.

We only have to look at Europe, Japan and other more developed countries to understand the value of mass transportation being integrated into a system of parkways, highways, and freeways.

I have been there, and believe me, it works.

There isn't much time to get this right so I urge you to call your senators and representatives and tell them to quit playing politics and do the smart thing by funding the Northstar Corridor.

And while you are talking to them please ask them to quit sitting on their hands and get down to the business of balancing the budget.

It's interesting that it has been almost two months since the republicans and democrats went to the dance together, did a fast dance and ended up married to a budget deal.

And boy did they celebrate! Yup, they celebrated like there was no tomorrow.

But guess what? There wasn't any tomorrow.

As fate would have it the budget wasn't balanced, the recession's effects got worse, and they put the state's triple A credit rating at risk.

That's right folks; it was all a cruel joke.

The February budget fix was a scam that is now being exposed and the marriage of the House Republicans and Senate Democrats is breaking up.

But there is an answer to this. The answer is for the legislature to look beyond the coming election and solve the budget problem with integrity rather than with moves that simply buy time so they can add to their power base.

The answer is to agree to the principles that I set forth when we started this process back in January.

Those principles are:

- Balance the budget so that revenues match our spending commitments through this biennium and the next, and
- Ensure that any reserve funds used to get us through the short term are restored for the long term.
- And ensure that we pay for future obligations.

This is simply good financial planning that should be the bottom line for any responsible elected official.

But, what we have in reality is legislators who want to spend almost a billion dollars on capital projects but not appropriate the money to pay for them.

We have legislators spending their time and your tax dollars passing laws to curry favor with constituent groups to ensure a safe passage through the November elections.

The time for moving on is here.

It's time to agree to a balanced budget.

It's time to pass a bonding bill that is paid for and includes funding for roads, trains and buses.

It's time to stop playing politics and start making tough decisions.

That is my message and I think it is the people's message.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Twins Stadium Financing Plan
Governor's Office, State Capitol, St. Paul
March 15, 2002

Click here for Outline of Plan

Governor's Statement

In January before the current legislative session began, Senate and House leaders acknowledged several pressing issues that they would work to resolve: the budget shortfall, capital bonding, redistricting and finally, the stadium issue**.**

It is now March 15, and just two weeks remain until their targeted adjournment date. And none of these issues are resolved.

So much publicity was given to an early budget bill crafted by democrat and republican leaders that most people think that the budget problem is solved. It is not.

So much legislative time and effort has been focused on easy short-term solutions but the fact remains that they are a long way from finishing their job.

Could we still do the responsible thing? Sure. And I would tell them that it is important to continue trying.

It is important because it would be irresponsible to pass a bonding bill that requires more debt service than our long-term budgets can reasonably support.

It is important because inaction will only create further risk for education, health care, long term care, public employees, local government, state services and the state's credit rating.

Having said that, let me now address the least important of the important issues we face: A baseball stadium.

I will not support a bill that raises an existing state tax or creates a new state tax to pay for a baseball stadium.

I would only support a baseball stadium bill that authorizes the state to finance a stadium.

Therefore I am offering a plan:

The state of Minnesota would finance - not fund - a baseball stadium by issuing $330 million in taxable revenue bonds to pay for the design and construction of a baseball stadium.

A gift by the team of $165 million dollars would be placed in a fund. In addition, the team would make annual payments of approximately $10 million dollars to the gift fund.

The gift fund would be invested for the 30-year term of the revenue bonds and the profits would then be used to pay off interest and principal.

The team would assume responsibility for the investment of the fund and guarantee the state from any loss for the length of the loan.

I believe that this is a simple and safe way to use the states ability to obtain low interest debt but still maintain an arms length from what is for the most part a private business deal.

I have kept my statement brief because I want to emphasize that while Commissioner Wheelock and I have been concentrating on issues of higher priority, Assistant Finance Commissioner Peter Sausen has come up with what I think is a pretty good idea.

If the legislature wants to take advantage of this idea maybe we can get the stadium issue settled and move on to the Budget.

Baseball Stadium Financing Outline

The Facts

- State issues $330 million in revenue bonds for a new stadium.
- Taxable bonds are sold at today's low interest rates (6.5%).
- Twins pay for one-half of the stadium costs upfront, giving $165 million as a gift to the state.
- Interest earned on the gift (estimated at 8.5%) pays the principal at the end of 30 years and funds roughly one-half of

the interest payments over the 30 years.
- The Twins make annual payments of about $10 million each year to provide the rest of the interest payment.

The Plan

- **$330 million in taxable revenue bonds sold at an estimated 6.5% rate of interest to pay for the design and construction of the stadium and are paid off at the end of 30 years.**
- **The $330 million in principal on the bonds is paid at the end of the 30 years, with about $21.5 million in interest earnings paid annually during the 30 years.**
- **The $165 million Twins contribution is placed in the gift fund and invested.**
- **The gift fund has a long-term investment horizon of 30 years and assumes an average return on the investment of 8.5%.**
- **The investment return is greater than the interest rate on the bonds sold, resulting in an investment profit that pays roughly one-half of the annual interest costs and the entire principal after 30 years.**

The Team's Role

- **The Twins contribute one-half of the project costs upfront as a non-refundable gift to the state.**
- **The Twins assume the risk that investment returns are sufficient, along with the annual payments, to cover annual interest payments and the principal payment at the end of 30 years.**
- **The Twins enter into a 30 year lease for use of the publicly owned stadium.**
- **The Twins select all investment advisors, giving the team more control over the gift fund's investment strategy.**
- **At predetermined time periods of four years, the Twins are required to bring the gift fund up to the amount expected if investment returns are less than expected.**
- **The Twins provide sufficient security or guarantees to ensure that state taxpayers hold no risk for future interest or principal payments.**

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Governor Jesse Ventura
St. Paul Rotary
Prom Center, Oakdale
March 12, 2002

Good Afternoon.

I'm sure that some of you came here today to have a good lunch.

Perhaps others came for the food and the camaraderie.

But I bet most of you came for the food, the camaraderie **and** to hear me explain what's going on at the Capitol.

Well, I hope you are enjoying your lunch and the camaraderie, because explaining what's going on at the Capitol is not likely to be an enjoyable experience for any of us.

Maybe you already have it figured out.

Maybe you can tell me why Roger Moe, the Democrat, got into bed with Steve Sviggum, the Republican, and after a very short nap, passed a highly acclaimed budget balancing bill that;

- didn't come close to actually balancing the budget,
- probably violated the constitutional concept of separations of powers,
- cut the Governors office by 15 % and their own budget by only 3 %,
- used virtually every last dollar in state reserve funds except for the $12 million dollar stash they are hoarding for themselves,
- causes the state to enter the next budget cycle flat broke,
- has no plan to restore the rainy day funds,
- will likely put our triple A credit rating in jeopardy,
- concentrates spending cuts on state government rather than spreading them out to all levels,
- ignores the long term structural deficit,
- ignores inflation,

ignores common sense, but finally,
- it does not, and I emphasize-**does not-**ignore politics.

And then there is ***phase two***.

Phase two, according to the Senate and the House will tidy up all of the above and lay the ground work for ***"phase three"*** which will address the long term structural balance.

However, it now appears doubtful that they will ever get to ***phase three***.

My best guess is that they will try to work out the final details of the short term quick fix and then get out of Dodge before the people can figure out what's up.

For the life of me I cannot figure out where the public employee unions have been. Has anyone here seen them?

How about Education Minnesota?

When are these groups going to figure out what this legislature is doing to them? Have union leaders figured out yet that there has been no final action on the ratification of the collective bargaining agreements?

Have union leaders figured out that the legislature has ignored the inflationary factor for the next budget cycle and that is effectively a reduction in money available to education and other areas of government?

The Senate in their ***phase two*** is planning to correct some of the "problems" in ***phase one***. Well that's fine but how are they going to pay for those "corrections?"

Taxes. That's how.

Taxes. You know that's the same word that Roger and Steve wouldn't have anything to do with when I suggested it in January.

But now **Roger** seems to like the word.

But the problem is, **Steve** still doesn't and most likely never will like the word.

So now the question becomes-what then?

Well, if this little problem doesn't end in the divorce of Roger and

Steve I'll be very surprised. But then politics is a very powerful motivator.

I remember last January when I said that this was a serious problem that couldn't be solved with smoke and mirrors. Well, apparently I was wrong.

Because just yesterday the House announced its ***phase two*** budget fix.

Guess what? In ***phase one*** they used the tobacco prevention money for cash flow. But the problem is, in ***phase two*** they're using that ***same*** tobacco prevention money to balance the budget.

It could be that I might have smoke in my eyes but I don't get it.

Do these politicians realize that this problem is serious?

Do these politicians realize that they are heading down the path of a damaged credit rating?

Do these politicians realize that last week Moody's Investors Service put the State of Wisconsin on notice that their rating was in jeopardy for some of the same budget tactics?

Do these politicians understand that last week Moody's actually downgraded New Jersey's credit rating?

From the beginning I have asked the legislature to take measures to close the gap between ongoing revenues and expenditures. Incredibly, they can't account for money to pay for spending we already have and yet they continue to want to do even more spending and impose more mandates.

Am I frustrated? You bet. Especially when just about every economist in this state agrees that the legislature needs to make sure that we have a plan to restore our budget reserve. But it appears that it just isn't convenient to deal with such details right now. After all there is an election on the horizon and it is clearly more important to get out there and fill their own campaign reserves rather than deal with the taxpayers' reserves.

Everyday my staff points out to me the editorial pages of the local newspapers where they say Ventura's approach is right and he should work with legislators to do the right thing.

That, ladies and gentlemen is not as easy as it looks.

Just over a week ago a statement made by Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe reveals just how difficult it would be to get legislators to do the responsible thing.

Majority Leader Moe told Star Tribune reporter Patricia Lopez that:

"I understand where Ventura is coming from. I would do exactly what he is doing."

Why then is the legislature and Senator Moe not working with me on my more responsible approach? Why then did Senator Moe get into bed with Speaker Sviggum to consummate the quick and dirty fix?

Because, while the Senator said he would do exactly what I was doing, he was quick to follow with another very revealing statement. This one sounded more like ***Candidate*** Moe:

"Where it gets tough in this arena is you have to make these decisions in March of 2002--"

This is what we are up against--taking tough votes in March when there is an election in November.

It's that simple folks--politics and power.

When I ran for this office I said I would not let politics, or the lust for power get in the way of my decisions.

Unlike most legislators, and two who lust after *my* office, I have made the tough decisions in March. But if I decide to run again, and making the tough decisions in March cost me the election--so be it.

I will go back to the private sector and be able to look in the mirror and know that I played it straight, was honest, and had the political courage to make the tough decisions in March.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Day at the Capitol
Touchstone Energy Place, St. Paul
February 28, 2002

Good morning.

I sure hope you are all enjoying your day in the capitol city.

As far as excitement goes, it doesn't get much better than this.

A little over three years ago I was doing a talk radio show, playing lots of golf, and watching the political circus from the outside.

Man how things have changed.

Seriously, despite all the commotion and all the political theatrics, this is serious business.

Our State's budget is ailing, and together we all have a responsibility to fix it.

And, as if it wasn't bad enough last week, this week brought even worse news.

While our economy looks to improve as early as this next quarter, the damage from the recession was greater than we thoughtand the recovery is going to be slower than we thought.

Although, after yesterday's action in the house, it is clear that Speaker Sviggum and Majority Leader Moe ignored the bad news, and continued down the path of a quick political fix.

Incredibly, this marriage of the conservative and the liberal, seems to be leading us down the path of fiscal chaos.

This "compromise" between Sviggum and Moe uses virtually every reserve the state has in an attempt to balance the budget for this

biennium.

There is one they didn't tap.

They must have forgotten about the $12 million they had in their own coffers.

In addition, this bill cuts many state agencies by up to twenty percent.

It cuts the Governors office budget by 16 percent.

But, you know how much the legislature cut their operating budget? 3 percent.

Senator Moe and Speaker Sviggum are also the creators of the "let's just ignore inflation" approach to balancing the budget.

They do this knowing full well that the result of their action could lead to K-12 education taking about a $375 million dollar hit in the next budget cycle.

Senator Moe agreed to this. I did not.

Senator Moe's answer to everything in this bill is 'we'll fix it in phase II'.

Well, I have to wonder if Sviggum and Pawlenty will agree to any "fix"?

We all know that to solve a $3.2 billion dollar shortfall in the next budget cycle will require additional revenue.

For the life of me, I can't figure out this Moe/Sviggum deal.

In the past, at the urging of legislators like Roger Moe, state law has required that forecasts have an inflation factor.

Senator Moe knows full well that if they use these kind of tactics Minnesota's hard earned triple A bonding rating will surely take a hit.

One of my finance advisors recently said to me, "If you act like a double A state you're likely to become a double A state." Moe, Sviggum and Pawlenty are acting like leaders of a double A state.

But, enough of that.

We now have to implement the bill and let me tell you it isn't going to be pretty. Unlike my approach, which would spread out the cuts among various governments, this bill concentrates its cuts in state government.

Be assured that I am a reformer, and am for a smaller government, but I prefer to do it in a more systematic and fair way. This bill requires cuts in agencies like Finance, Revenue and Administration of up to 20 percent.

Why these agencies? Politics.

Legislators cleverly directed the most significant cuts to areas of government that don't have special interest groups watching out for them.

But the cold hard fact is that the Department of Revenue collects the taxes that fuel our state's operation.

Once we make the Moe, Sviggum, and Pawlenty cuts it is estimated that we lose the ability to audit and collect taxes to the tune of over 11 million dollars a year.

It makes you wonder if these legislators have any business sense at all.

Again, I am a reformer. I think we need to make government more efficient, but in a more fair and businesslike manner.

They cut the department of Finance by 17 percent.

The Department of Finance pays the bills. But what do legislators care if the bills don't get paid on time?

The Department of Administration, among other things, maintains the state's investment in buildings and other infrastructure. A twenty percent cut may look good today, but how about five years from now?

Because this bill was put together in about 72 hours, many legislators have no clue what the ramifications of this bill will be.

But be assured that we have some very capable people that will do the best they can to apply these legislative mandated cuts as fair and evenhandedly as the law will allow.

The Speaker and the Senator have said that they will begin working on phase II soon after they break for precinct caucuses.

Let me remind them that I have a responsible plan on the table. It fairly spread the pain out among all levels of government and mitigates the impact on us all by adding small increases in consumer taxes like cigarettes and gasoline. It may not fit their political plans, but I believe it the right plan.

Finally, let me say that the hard work is still to come. I hope this Moe/Sviggum marriage is a strong one, because phase two is going to be no honeymoon.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Budget Bill Veto Message
Reception Room, State Capitol
February 25, 2002

Read the veto letter to legislative leaders

The news, it seems, just keeps getting worse.

First, our legislature produces an irresponsible budget bill and second, the February forecast shows an even slower economic recovery.

The Senate and the House are celebrating the fact that they got together and produced a budget bill in record time. For that I am grateful.

But the bad news is the bill comes up short on balance, its cuts are haphazard and it has consequences that even legislative leaders are not aware of.

There are a lot of reasons that this bill concerns me but the most important ones are that it uses every last bit of our savings and doesn't replace them-- leaving the state flat broke going into the next budgeting cycle.

Undoubtedly this bill will impact our credit rating and long term borrowing--which would in turn impact the credit health and borrowing capacity of local governments.

This bill does very little to close the gap between money in and out--even this year--let alone in the future. Unless we raise very significant revenues, or in the alternative, make drastic cuts to education and local government in the so-called second phase,' it sets us up for an even more severe crisis next year.

Additionally, this compromise bill between the House and Senate is seriously deficient because it ignores the fact that the House of Representatives has threatened to not ratify the labor contracts

negotiated and agreed upon last fall.

I believe it is irresponsible to move forward without addressing this issue and leave the potential for a government crisis if the unions react by going back out on strike.

Because legislators did not spread out the effects of the recession to all levels of government and focused solely on state government, there is great potential that a strike, along with hundreds of millions in cuts to state government services, could lead to a chaotic situation.

The Legislature has passed a bill that cuts $157 million dollars from state government, but offers very little direction in what should be specifically cut.

They simply do not have the stomach to identify specific cuts for fear that they will have to stand up to the public and be honest. But I will.

Some examples of cuts to services that would be the result of this bill becoming law are:

- The loss of an estimated $11 million dollars a year because it reduces the ability of our Department of Revenue to audit and collect taxes. This is the worst possible time to make such cuts.

- This bill will make our prisons unsafe. Cuts to the Department of Corrections could be in excess of $40 million dollars for the biennium. At a time when prison populations are increasing by 400 prisoners annually, the legislature is considering bills that provide longer prison sentences for certain criminals. This large of a cut could result in dangerous situations in our state prisons.

- One in 8 manufacturing jobs in the state is directly related to exports.

  This budget bill severely harms the very tools needed to turn around our state's economy by cutting the Minnesota Trade Office by 30 percent. This is totally irrational.

- Incredibly, payments to veterans and their families, who are at risk of being homeless, would be delayed. And most

importantly, not funding the deficiency at the Veterans Home is completely unacceptable.

- We all know that tourism was hit hard as the result of September 11. This is a $9 billion dollar industry that employs 130,000 people in our state. The legislature, in a move that seems completely irresponsible, cut the Office of Tourism by 23 percent.

- On top of all the cuts to important services to the citizens of Minnesota, this bill does not cut the legislature's reserve funds, it doesn't cut the legislature itself in any significant way and it doesn't cut city or county government at all.

They would reduce state agency budgets by up to 25 percent but only cut the legislature's operating budget by 3 percent.

Their cuts could cause over 1000 state employees to lose their jobs, but they are taking every political advantage they can to make sure that their own jobs are secure.

They ignore the fact that inflationary increases will no doubt cause even more services to be cut in the next budget cycle. Yet they're counting on inflation to increase future tax revenues. They can't have it both ways.

By ignoring inflation they are turning a blind eye to the truth. For example, state revenues will not grow enough to cover skyrocketing health care costs.

By taking this approach, legislators have banded together to save themselves while risking the long-term economic security of our state.

If I had faith that the legislature would fix the problems in this bill and solve the long-term problem, I may have signed this bill. But in reality it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that this bill is a political fix and there is a good chance the next bill will be a political fix as well. And that's assuming that they can agree and get a bill to my desk to begin with.

The consequences of letting politics drive this process could be one of the biggest single mistakes that any legislature has ever made.

Past and present leaders have worked hard to make Minnesota one of the most well managed states in America.

In a recent article that appeared in The Bond Buyer, the Minnesota analyst for Moody's Investors Service said: "--with a triple A state we think that there is less tolerance in the rating to use all the reserves if there is not a long term plan in place."

Note that this is Wall Street talking--and not a political consultant from Washington D.C.

Consider that the day after this bill was passed; radio ads paid for by a political campaign committee bragged that the budget problem was fixed and fixed without raising taxes.

The timing of the passage of this bill, the running of the political ad and other political activity that prevented leaders from meeting throughout the weekend clearly suggests that politics, not public service or patriotism, is the driving force behind this bill.

These politicians did not fix this budget deficit. They made things worse by putting a contaminated band-aid on a wounded economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, last fall the Al Qaeda directed a devastating blow to the American economy. Without that attack I believe that we could have weathered this recession with relative ease. Unfortunately we now not only have a recession, but we are at war and it is causing our state to recover more slowly.

We must fight this war against terrorism and we must fight to restore the damage that the war has caused our state's economy.

The challenge is great.

But I accept the challenge and if that means I have to break a promise to fight a war--I'll break that promise.

I don't want to raise taxes. That's the last thing I want to do. But sometimes you have to summon the courage to do things you don't want to do.

I've done that. I have led the way in the effort to rebuild our war-torn economy. I know that the weapons of 'one time' money, accounting shifts, and budget reserves are inadequate.

This is a time for personal sacrifice. During World War II our parents' generation sacrificed greatly. They survived rationing of food products and gasoline. I think our legislators underestimate the patriotism of Minnesotans.

Our citizens were there for New York in the immediate aftermath of

September 11 and I believe they will be willing to sacrifice now to counter the long-term effects of the war on the Minnesota state economy.

While our parents *rationed* gas, all we are asking is for citizens to pay a nickel a gallon more.

Unfortunately, our legislators do not seem to understand that taxes and personal sacrifice are the price we pay for freedom.

This war on our economy is tough and it will take bigger guns than what the legislature has shown us so far to solve it.

And so, in light of the new forecast, and the clear inadequacies of this bill, I am vetoing House File 351.

I am asking that the legislature go back to work and attack this war-wounded economy without regard to their political ambitions, but with the courage of a patriot and the honesty of a public servant.

For the good of our country and for the good of our state, put politics aside and do the right thing.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Veto Letter to Legislative Leaders
February 25, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter Number 220, House File Number 351, a bill relating to the omnibus budget and appropriations.

I am vetoing this bill because it does little to address the basic problem that the recession has caused: there is less money coming in than going out, both in the current budget and the next. Legislative leaders have assured me that more fixes are forthcoming, but I have no reason to believe that they will be able to bridge their differences and produce a responsible budget package.

The solution sitting before me relies heavily on one-time funds to plug the deficit in FY 2002-03 and wishes away inflation in FY 2004-05. Although this bill is a first step, without a more comprehensive package that balances revenues and expenditures and replenishes the state's reserves, the state's credit rating will be at risk and state programs will be in jeopardy.

Some legislators have recognized the critical need for a more stable and complete funding package. They are right to insist on a budget deal that relies less on one-time money and avoids disruptive budget cuts in the future. We cannot pretend that pain deferred is pain avoided.

I appreciate the speed and attention that legislators have given to

putting this bill together. HF 351, however, fails to meet even the legislature's own goal for balancing state revenues and expenditures. The degree to which this bill leans on the use of one-time reserves is simply irresponsible. Not only does it use all available reserves, it lacks any plan to restore them and already acknowledges that there will be a big gap between state revenues and state obligations next year.

The pain of state budget shortfalls should be dealt with equitably, as well as quickly. My budget recommended significant cuts to state operations because I believed that it was fair to spread the pain of a budget shortfall to all. My plan also recognized that the same partners that benefit from state funding--namely cities, counties and schools--should also share in solving the budget deficit. Instead, HF 351 places the great majority of the responsibility for resolving the deficit onto state government.

On top of these reductions for state operations, the bill cuts an additional $75 million from state operations by imposing a $40 million hiring freeze and a $35 million cut in professional and technical contracts. These provisions are unacceptably vague. Each potential employee not hired and each contract not signed means that some work currently done by a state agency will go undone. We might even agree on some of those service and program reductions, but the bill doesn't specify what they are. The unspecified cuts place state agencies in the impossible role of having to manage their operations, without hiring people, without signing contracts, yet pretending they can meet the same expectations as today.

The specific budget cuts to agency operations combined with these non-specific budget "plugs" are likely to lead to the following consequences. Cuts to prison funding will put employees and the public at risk. We will be less able to prevent and respond to future disease outbreaks and protect our food supply. Even our ability to track down people who don't pay their taxes will be diminished, further worsening the state's deficit by another $21 million.

I've heard claims that this bill removes automatic spending growth, apparently by removing inflation in the numbers used to plan the next budget. Removing estimated inflation from our state forecast simply lowers our financial management standards but it doesn't mean that inflation won't happen. What it does mean is that those who put together the next budget will have to make budget cuts or raise taxes just to maintain current service levels. The result is that HF 351 ensures risk and instability to the very cities, counties, and

schools that the legislature is trying to protect.

Balancing the state's budget and managing it responsibly is a difficult task. Yet this is the kind of challenge that each of us agreed to take on when we took the oath of office. Minnesota is part of an elite circle of states that has held itself to the highest financial standards. I am proud of that record, as each Minnesotan should be. I am also committed to maintaining that record, even through these difficult times.

My concern about managing the risk of current budget deficits should not be interpreted as a lack of concern for quality K-12 education or local government services. Rather, the issue is whether we are putting these very services in greater peril by leaving a deficit for future years just so that we can push off tough decisions to a more convenient time.

Though this bill, by itself, fails to meet this test, I remain dedicated to working with the legislature until a balanced agreement is reached.

For these reasons, I am vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate
Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader|
Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader
Representative Rich Stanek
Senator Doug Johnson
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Rural Electric Association
Touchstone Energy Place, St. Paul
February 20, 2002

Good afternoon.

Even though I've been in this job over three years now, I still am amazed every day.

Look what's been happening lately.

It's barely gotten below freezing in Minnesota in February and the Legislature looks like it might actually get its work done.

I suppose the next thing we'll see is Bud Selig telling us that baseball owners are making plenty of money and they'd be happy to pay for their own stadium.

Probably not ...

So let's talk about something a little more realistic and pressing: the energy Minnesota will need for the future and the energy we'll need to make it through these tough economic times.

Electric co-ops are a big part of the energy landscape here in Minnesota, serving 1.3 million people in our state.

And you have kept the lights on for thousands of Minnesotans that other utilities have historically turned their backs on.

The $110 million you have returned to your members in the last 5 years is not a bad thing either.

That's something we have in common: we both like giving money back.

Like your members, energy has been front and center for me since I took office.

Since then, we have seen rolling blackouts and high priced electricity in California, the collapse of Enron, and natural gas price shocks.

We don't like those things and we especially don't like them here in Minnesota.

We like our energy available, affordable, and reliable.

The questions about our energy future require answers that are not from our energy past.

That's why my administration is leading the way in the promotion of renewable energy and conservation.

The Energy Bill I signed into law last year requires utilities to make a good faith effort to increase electric generation using renewables by 2015.

And, as you know, the Energy Bill also expands conservation in Minnesota.

Minnesota electric co-ops have some experience with conservation, like programs that help control heavy usage during those hot, humid days.

But conservation is not just for summer any more. It makes sense for every day of our energy future.

Your customers won't mind saving some money, but here is the big payoff:
For every dollar spent on conservation programs, about $4 dollars are saved in electric costs.

And the current Conservation Improvement Program, or "CIP", is saving about 128 megawatts of demand per year in the Investor Owned utility service territories.

This is a tremendous impact, and amounts to avoiding the need to pay for a 640 megawatt power plant every five years.

That's real money that doesn't need to be spent on generation.

Make no mistake though - we will need more electricity in Minnesota by the end of the decade and conservation alone won't do it.

It's not a crisis, but we will need more energy because we continue to use more energy.

Some of that power is already available, including 900 megawatts from the peaking plants of Great River Energy.

As you know, I don't put my finger in the air to check on the direction of the political winds.

And I don't need to put my finger in the air to know that we have a lot of wind in Minnesota - some of which is *not* produced by the legislature.

The potential for wind power in Minnesota is huge-- in fact, our potential is 10 times greater than California.

We're ranked 9th in the lower 48 states for wind energy potential.

Minnesota is already one of the top states in the nation for producing electricity from wind. But we can do more and we should do more.

Last year, about 2 percent of Minnesota's total electric use came from wind.

My Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein has said that 10 percent should be our near term goal, and I agree.

There are more than 400 wind generators supplying more than 106,000 Minnesota households.

Almost all of those generators are on wind farms. You might have seen them in southwestern Minnesota...actually they are hard to miss.

Everywhere we go, from Buffalo Ridge to the Range, people say they want wind power ... and for good reason.

- It's good for farmers,
- it's good for consumers,
- and it's good for the local economy.

When you ask about building a coal or nuclear power plant, people say "not in my back yard" - when you ask about wind energy, people say "*yes,* please put that in my back yard."

Farmers like it because they make money--up to $3,000 for each turbine when they lease their land.

Commissioner Bernstein tells me that 7 out of 10 Minnesotans say they would prefer to purchase electricity that is generated by the wind and that number is supported by utility industry surveys as well as other studies.

Great River Energy knows its customers want wind power.

G-R-E broke new ground by building wind generation based on customer request.

They're up to 6 megawatts, with another 21 megawatts on the drawing board.

If everybody wants it, and it helps answer our need for energy, we should be doing more with it.

And in more places.

Instead of building huge power plants that serve several states, we should be building power where it's needed.

Distributed generation is making sense to Minnesota communities.

At a conference last year in St. Cloud, dozens of Minnesota counties and cities made it very clear to everyone who is listening ... they want to have control of their energy future.

The partnership between Hennepin County and the Green Institute to create an energy co-op in the Phillips Neighborhood is one example.

This is the first new energy co-op in nearly 50 years, and you might just see more.

That's because people, like the residents of the Phillips Neighborhood, now want to have a hand in energy planning.

The Phillips Energy Co-op will develop electric generation using renewable energy and streetlights powered by the sun.

It's the right thinking and the right time.

It helps them to be a self-sufficient, healthy, vital community, and that's what my BIG PLAN is all about.

My administration will continue to work hard on tough energy issues, because we won't be another California.

We will work hard to promote affordable, available, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
St. James VFW Luncheon
St. James, MN
February 14, 2002



Governor Ventura enjoying lunch before speaking to veterans in St. James

Good afternoon.

Thank you for inviting me to lunch today.

I'd like to thank you all for coming and thank everyone who helped put this great lunch together.

I also want to thank my Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Jeff Olson, for his very hard work on behalf of the Veterans of this state.

I like the fact that I am speaking to you in a VFW hall. I like it because since September 11 and the beginning of the war on terrorism, it is especially important to recognize how important the armed forces have been to the preservation of freedoms that we enjoy in our country.

To the veterans of VFW Post 1914 and American Legion Post 33 in St. James, I want to thank you for your loyalty to the United States and your service in the Armed Forces.

These days it is nice to see all the support for our war efforts. Back in the late sixties when I enlisted in the Navy you didn't necessarily have the overwhelming support that our soldiers have today.

But the great thing about this country is that we can and must stand behind our soldiers and never hold them responsible for decisions made by politicians.

When Roy Boehm was asked by President Kennedy to help form

the first Navy SEAL unit he responded like this:

"I didn't vote for you Mr. President, but I'll die for you, Mr. President."

It is that kind of loyalty that makes me proud to be a veteran and a Navy SEAL.

As you know I am out and about today to officially announce the appointment of new judges in Marshall and St. James.

When I finish here I will be walking over to the courthouse to appoint a new judge in St. James.

Of course that means that Terry Dempsey, the current Judge can go fishing. I hear he's a common sense type guy who used to be in the legislature, maybe he'll go back to the legislature, they sure could use some help.

Now, I'm kind of joking around here--I'm not bashing the legislature--you know the drill, joke, joke, joke.

Seriously, I do want to talk a little bit about the current state of affairs in St. Paul.

As you know, as result of a national recession and the devastating effects of September 11th we have a serious budget deficit. A deficit that is almost two billion dollars for the current biennium, and another two and a half billion in the next biennium.

In January I sent to the legislature a comprehensive long-term budget fix.

My solution is balanced with spending cuts that would be difficult but fair.

It also called for raising taxes on cigarettes and gasoline, and extending the sales tax to some services.

Now, let me make it clear that I didn't want to raise taxes. And clearly, there are a lot of cuts that we will have to make that I wish we didn't have to.

But I was elected to this job to make tough decisions--and I will. Believe me, if we don't raise additional revenues we will have to make even stiffer cuts to education, local governments and nursing homes.

I said when I ran for this job that I would leave the budget in as good a shape as it was when Governor Carlson left office. To do anything else would be irresponsible.

The problem is I can't get the legislature to agree that we must make the tough choices.

What the legislature is proposing is a temporary fix.

The Senate would use every single dollar we have in reserve to balance the current budget and effectively leave the state broke.

Both the Senate and the House say that if we just ignore the inflation factor in the forecast for 2004 and 2005 we can solve most of the deficit for those years.

Now I'm not an economic expert but I think I can figure out that such a move is crazy.

Every economist that I have talked to has told me that this is pure folly. The experts told me that if you ignore the inflation factor then you must assume the recession is not over.

And if the recession is not over in 2004 we're going to be in bigger trouble then than we are now.

The legislature keeps saying that they will not raise taxes, will not cut education, will not cut nursing homes, and will not cut local government.

What will they cut? Why do they keep saying those things? We all know they are going to have to do something.

You cannot solve this problem by avoiding it.

They know very well that it isn't going away. But they also know very well that an election is coming up and that's the real reason they aren't truly facing up to the problem.

By not solving the problem for 2004 and 2005 they put school districts and local governments at great risk. They should face up to the problem and be honest with the people.

Yesterday the Department of Finance reported that January revenue collections were nearly $72 million dollars short of projections--a clear sign that things are not likely to get better.

Yet legislative leaders continue to hope for a miracle.

Last week I gave a speech that was meant to persuade them to work toward an honest solution and not one that simply gives them political advantage. After I gave the speech a legislative leader accused me of yelling at them and not sitting down with them to work out a meaningful compromise.

Well, I don't remember yelling at them, I remember asking them to save the politics for later and get down to serious fiscal management now.

It seems I can't win with the legislature. It reminds me of what Harry Truman once said:

"I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth and they thought it was hell."

Unfortunately, the truth is it doesn't look like the legislature is going to get anything done real soon.

Because there is no agreement to take action, and it is clear that the February forecast will not likely improve the outlook, I believe I need to step up my effort to make reductions that do not require legislative action.

Today I am asking my commissioners and agency heads to act immediately to implement proposed reductions that can be achieved without legislative action.

In addition, I have issued a directive that, as of today, current and future employee vacancies **shall not be filled** unless there is a critical or legal need to do so.

Finally, I have told my managers that I expect them to be tenacious in applying scrutiny to purchases of equipment, supplies, and other commodities--and that should include contracts for consulting and other professional services.

While I expect that these conditions will remain until the end of the fiscal year, the continuation of these restrictions will largely depend upon the timing and nature of legislative action on the budget deficit.

And if there is no resolve on the part of the legislature to take meaningful action, I will not hesitate to take additional budget reduction actions.

As I said earlier, I don't relish having to do this.

But the people did not elect me to play politics. They elected me to make tough decisions--and I respect the people.

Sure, it would be nice if all I had to do were the things that make people happy, but that's not reality.

But rest assured, I'm still having fun and part of that fun is coming to places like St. James and meeting hard working people.

And I know that when you work hard and pay those taxes that you expect your leaders to make sure that we don't waste them.

I have a group of very talented and very smart people that work for me as commissioners and staff. And you can be assured that working together, we will make sure that we get the most from every dollar you send us.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Moving Minnesota Transportation Conference
Radisson South, Bloomington
February 12, 2002

Good morning. It's great to be here with all of you today.

We're here to talk about transportation-- something that has been one my top priorities since I took office.

As I am sure you know, early in my administration, I proposed a 10-year investment plan called "Moving Minnesota." I believed it was what the state needed when I proposed it two years ago, and I believe it is what the state needs today.

Minnesota needs a long-term, statewide plan that gives people choices. Roads *and* transit must be part of the solution.

To get there will take leadership.

Unfortunately, so far legislators don't appear up to the task. In response to the realistic and honest budget plan I put on the table, legislators offered shortsighted plans that don't even include inflation.

Let me also address the politicking going on related to the Northstar rail project.

The real issue that we need to focus on is whether or not Minnesota needs commuter rail and whether Northstar is the right project. The answer on both counts is "yes."

I am proud of the work Mn/DOT is doing on Northstar. It is a good project for the citizens of this state and it will remain a state project.

As I have said before, it's time to stop making excuses about transportation.

This is not about roads versus transit.

It's not about who's in control of the project.

It's not about reliving the tired light rail debate.

This is about being honest. It's about leadership. It's about what's right for Minnesota.

It's time to stop picking projects for political reasons.

We should do it based on need and the opportunity to solve transportation problems.

Northstar is critical, not only because it gives people in the fastest growing corridor in the state another choice, but because it takes people off the road, making room for those who choose to drive.

It is part of a bigger plan that links key regions and places in the state together. That's what Moving Minnesota is about too.

The ultimate success of Moving Minnesota is dependent on the commitment that Mn/DOT and its partners have made to "getting the job done."

I realize this has been no easy task. We've all had to face a lot of tough challenges in the midst of trying to do our jobs. Obviously the tragedies of September 11 have been part of that. But Mn/DOT has proven that it's up to the challenge.

I came into office talking about reform and that agency has delivered.

I believe in limited government and accountability and Mn/DOT has embraced these qualities.

As a recent headline put it, "Streamlining has become the latest buzz word at Mn/DOT."

The agency has focused on delivering what its customers want, based on the feedback it gets.

This is how government should operate and is what I've asked all state agencies to do.

Sept. 11 changed everything. It made us all think about what's important. It made us also understand the importance of safety and mobility.

So when it comes down to it, all this talk about politics and policies isn't really important.

What matters is that parents can take their kids to daycare, hospitals receive the supplies they need, ambulances can rush patients to the emergency room and workers make it home safely despite a wicked Minnesota storm.

You make this happen. This is what it's really about.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Response to House and Senate Budget Proposals
State Capitol, St. Paul
February 8, 2002

Statement of Governor Ventura
February 8, 2002

On January 10, I submitted a comprehensive long-term budget solution to the Legislature. My plan responsibly balanced our budget and left no pending disasters for another year.

Now, almost one month later, the Senate Democrats and House Republicans have offered their plans.

It seems that the centerpiece of Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Speaker Steve Sviggum's solutions for our long-term budget problem is to *gamble* that there will be no inflation over the next 3 years.

About a decade ago, when the state last faced a deficit,

Legislators insisted that there be an inflation factor in our projections - but now - when it's not convenient - they want to ignore it.

This is the classic Alfred E. Neuman "What me worry?" scenario.

This problem is real and cannot be solved by wishing it away.

Will education advocates stand by and let the House and Senate put at risk millions of dollars that are forecast for K-12 education over the next two years?

Will nursing homes, state employees, and local governments

stand by and let the House and Senate put at risk money that was built into our planning to anticipate future costs for long-term care and citizen services?

Would any business develop a 5-year plan that didn't adjust for inflation?

And will Minnesota's business leaders stand by as the House and Senate create a major future liability that will show itself in major tax increases and credit down grades?

How can legislative leaders look at K-12, higher education, health care and businesses with a straight face and tell them that they are being spared?

It may look like they are being spared but the truth is going to rear it's ugly head next year. I hope that nursing home associations, educators, local government leaders, business leaders and state employees will question this legislative tactic.

I don't believe that our citizens want politically motivated avoidance strategies.

I do believe that they want honest, responsible and courageous fiscal policy.

As I told legislative leaders in a letter just yesterday I cannot accept a phantom fix that uses every single dollar the state has in various fund reserves - and then doesn't have a plan to restore them.

The temporary political fixes that are proposed by the Senate and House will likely put our AAA credit rating in jeopardy and could cause us to pay millions more in interest on our capital bonding projects.

Both their plans would cause serious long-term consequences.

The Senate's plan, which uses every single dollar of reserve funds, including the entire cash flow account, will likely cause us to use the tobacco funds for cash flow purposes in the next biennium.

The House would raid all reserves except the cash flow account but would use the proceeds of the tobacco endowment.

Both of these plans could require cuts to critical institutions like the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center.

The House plan would surely impact our prevention goals and our plan to save health care costs of almost $500 million a year by 2005.

On December 11, 2001 the House Republican Caucus said that any budget solution "should be structurally balanced" out to the years 2004-2005.

Something must have changed. The plan they released yesterday clearly doesn't get there.

House Republicans should own up to the fact that if they rely on simplistic solutions like hiring freezes and borrowing - in the long run - services I propose to save, will suffer.

They should also own up to the fact that I have already begun to cut spending and hiring - and I assure you that I will continue that effort.

In their effort to dramatize their plan they put out misleading information that only serves to make people even more skeptical.

The House Republican caucus reported yesterday that my administration has hired 479 employees in January of this year. Well, be careful what you read.

164 of those were teaching positions at MNSCU - over which I have no control.

250 of the 479 are part time hires that will work an average of less than 2 months.

Let's get serious.

A hiring freeze is a shortsighted political fix that puts no trust in our managers or our state workers and is likely to create long lines for state services and raise the ire of our citizens.

It will never save the $100 million dollars that the House claims.

Their plan is a disaster waiting to happen.

Their plan is forty miles of bad road.

You would likely not get the service you are used to at State Parks.

Your tax refunds could be delayed.

It goes on and on.

The House claims $2.1 billion in cuts in 2004 & 2005 but it gives us no detail. I suppose we can assume that about $1 billion comes from ignoring the inflation factor.

The Senate has yet to even attempt a long-term fix.

No one takes pleasure in cutting government. But if the legislature doesn't want to cut nursing homes and education why wouldn't they have the courage to balance the budget in for the long term in a way to protect education and nursing homes?

Why not be honest instead of giving false hope?

The House claims to have a budget reserve of $131 million by the end of 2005. But how can you have a budget reserve when your budget is still well over $500 million short of being balanced?

It is irresponsible and it won't work.

Speaker Sviggum and Senator Moe know very well that revenue collection over the last couple months is not indicating that things are likely to improve with the February forecast.

Yet they continue to move forward with a hope and a prayer.

They also know that they will either have to come back next year to cut more drastically, raise taxes substantially or begin a long-term fix later this session.

Under either scenario they have lost precious time and will cause the solution to come that much harder.

It's really quite ironic that they don't want to raise cigarette taxes this year - but mark my word, if they don't, next year they will have to consider raising taxes like sales, income and taxes on business.

You know what these plans remind me of?

They remind me of the homeowner who makes house repairs with cheap materials that last just long enough for them to sell it to someone else.

Then the new owner comes along and gets stuck with all the bills when the place falls apart.

I don't want our citizens to get suckered into this cheap trick.

We need to fix our fiscal house with a long lasting plan that will hold up in the future. Our citizens deserve no less than that.

Thank you.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Work Force Development Announcement
Radisson Riverfront, St. Paul
February 6, 2002

Good morning.

I didn't have to look far for the perfect audience for my announcement today--

The title of this conference says it all. You are here because you're interested in "Making Work ***WORK*****."**

I'm here to tell you--so am I. So interested, in fact, that I intend to do something about it.

Today I am announcing a comprehensive strategy that addresses the fact that:

Education
Workforce development
And economic development are connected at the hip--and **should** be inseparable.

Workforce development ***is*** economic development--and education is the vehicle that increases personal income **AND** makes Minnesota businesses more competitive.

We've known this for some time in Minnesota.

In fact, we've talked about it for years--in task forces and reports that have called for consolidating programs and improving the delivery of services.

Now it's time to transform the state's role in economic and workforce development:

To give ***all*** Minnesotans the choices they want and the services they need

when they need them

where they live.

To give employers the workforce they ***want***

with the skills they ***need***

to make their businesses ***succeed.***

I want to congratulate Morrie Anderson and the transition team for their vision and hard work in putting the pieces together--because that's just what they've done.

With their recommendations, we can begin moving ***from*** separate programs of education, workforce and economic development

toward a seamless system of service delivery that meets the needs of both workers and employers.

With this goal in mind--my proposal to the legislature involves more than just a merger of the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the Department of Economic Security. My plan focuses on three critical components:

1)Regional leadership. Minnesota doesn't need another layer of bureaucracy--but people need access to services where they live. The best way to get those services where they're needed most is to rely on the virtual networks already in place throughout the state.

2)Structure. We need to be strategic about the decisions we make - and that means moving the decision-making from the program level to a larger, overarching policy structure. We need to create a place for strategic vision to grow and evolve, so I will chair a high-level group of business, labor and community leaders to monitor our progress toward meeting the goals I set.

3)Accountability. I demand results - and with consolidated programs and services - we will be able to track performance across the board to make sure we're getting the job done. We

will also coordinate the workforce and economic development efforts of several state agencies to streamline operations and improve services.

I'll now turn this over to Morrie Anderson, who has led this transition effort. Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch--who will head the new Workforce and Economic Development Department-or WEDD-will also say a few words.

Morrie--

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Energy Address
St. Paul Hotel
February 4, 2002

Good afternoon.

Thank you for inviting me to take part in this very important conference.

I am glad to see that Senators Wellstone and Dorgan and Congressmen Kennedy and Sabo are also involved here today. Their presence--along with many experts in the field--shows the importance of renewable energy to the future of our state and country.

Thanks to all of them for taking time out of their busy schedules.

Since I took office, we have seen gas prices peak at nearly $2 a gallon, rolling blackouts and high priced electricity in California, and natural gas price shocks.

We don't like those things and we especially don't like them here in Minnesota.

We like our energy available, affordable, and reliable. And, when it is practical, we want our energy from renewable resources.

The questions about our energy future require answers that aren't from our energy past.

That's why my administration is leading the way in the promotion of renewable energy--(when it's practical and economical)

The Energy Bill that I signed into law last year requires utilities to make a good faith effort to increase electric generation using renewables by 2015.

Now is the time to do more with renewables.

Now more than ever, it makes sense.

Here in Minnesota, we will need more electricity by the end of the decade.

We will have to find a way to produce more because we are using more--and that trend is projected to continue.

Bob Dylan said, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." Or that the wind blows a lot in Minnesota.

The potential for wind power in Minnesota is huge--in fact, our potential is 10 times greater than California.

We're ranked 9th in the lower 48 states for wind energy potential.

This would be the obvious place to make a joke about installing a wind turbine outside the legislature, but that's too obvious.

Minnesota is already one of the top states in the nation for producing electricity from wind. But we can do more and we should do more.

Last year, about 2 percent of Minnesota's total electric use came from wind.

My Commerce Commissioner Jim Bernstein has said that 10 percent should be our near term goal--and I agree.

There are more than 400 wind generators supplying more than 106,000 Minnesota households.

Almost all of those generators are on wind farms. You might have seen them in southwestern Minnesota--actually they are hard to miss.

Everywhere we go--from Buffalo Ridge to the Range--people say they want wind power--and for good reason.

- It's good for farmers,
- it's good for consumers,
- and it's good for the local economy.

When you ask about building a coal or nuclear power plant, people say "not in my back yard"--when you ask about wind energy, people say "*yes,* please put that in my back yard"

Farmers like it because they make money--up to $3,000 for each turbine when they lease their land.

Commissioner Bernstein tells me that 7 out of 10 Minnesotans say they would prefer to purchase electricity that is generated by the wind and that number is supported by utility industry surveys as well other studies.

If everybody wants it, and it helps answer our need for energy, we should be doing more with it.

And in more places.

Instead of building one huge power plant to serve several states, we should be building power where it's needed.

It's called distributed generation, and Minnesota communities have said time and again they want it.

At a conference last year in St. Cloud, dozens of Minnesota counties and cities made it very clear to everyone who is listening--

--They want to have control of their energy future.

They don't want to have to rely on power being delivered over big power lines from a plant hundreds of miles away.

And they want as much renewable energy as possible.

It helps them to be self-sufficient, healthy, vital communities--and that's what my BIG PLAN is all about.

I also believe in the kind of renewable energy that goes in the gas tank.

I figure it this way:

You can either put your money in the pockets of OPEC states--or in the pockets of Minnesota farmers and rural communities.

Which would you prefer?

My administration prefers keeping the money right here and that's why we will continue to promote the use of home-grown fuels.

Let's face it--OPEC is not on our side. The less we have to depend on them, the better off we'll all be.

It's simple. Ethanol means

- We grow our own fuel
- A stronger market for corn and other Minnesota crops
- And, less pollution

More than 200 million gallons of ethanol blended fuel was sold in Minnesota last year. I think that number will grow.

The 14-ethanol plants in Minnesota have the capacity to produce 325 million gallons of ethanol each year.

It's a good thing they can produce that much because people want a cleaner, homegrown alternative to gasoline.

That's one of the reasons there are more flex-fuel vehicles on the road--the kind of vehicle that can use either regular gasoline with 10 percent ethanol--or E85 made of 85 percent ethanol.

There are about 70,000 of those vehicles on Minnesota roads today.

Automobile makers like Ford--a major employer here in St. Paul -- are building more cars and trucks that use E-85.

And the private sector is responding with more places to fill up.

There are now 64 E85 fueling sites in Minnesota--about half in the Metro and half in Greater Minnesota. That's more than any other state in the nation.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, working with the Twin Cities Clean Cities Coalition and other public and private partners, will continue to promote E85 in Minnesota.

My administration will continue to work hard on tough energy issues--because we don't want to be another California and we don't want to line up at gas stations over rumors of oil shortages in the Mideast.

We will work hard to promote affordable, available, and reliable energy for all Minnesotans.

And--working real hard--keeping Minnesotans first--we will not fail.

Thank you.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
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Governor Jesse Ventura
EMS conference
DECC, Duluth
February 1, 2002

Good morning.

I've always said, if you really want to find the true, battle-tested Minnesotans, you come to Duluth in January.

Then when you consider people in your line of work, who have to work in all kinds of conditions, I really have to tip my hat to you.

In fact, I'm told that the Arrowhead EMS Association is not just known as the best regional EMS association in the state, but the best in the country.

You should be very proud. I am.

All of you are doing something I really believe in: You're taking an active role in developing your professional skills and making an effort to become leaders in your field.

And in your field, being up-to-date can mean the difference between life and death.

So by working toward continuing education credits and improving your abilities, you are also making sure your fellow citizens will be protected and cared for.

Sounds like one of those win-win situations.

I commend your efforts to make our country a safe, stable place to live and work. It's comforting to know that we can turn to people like you.

The work you do has become even more critical in recent months, hasn't it?

Since Sept. 11th, the world has become increasingly unstable, uncertain and dangerous, and it's more difficult to anticipate the dangers facing us.

And because we don't know where danger will strike next, all we can do is prepare to deal with the unexpected and try to be ready for any eventuality, particularly at the local level.

I am continuing to make homeland security one of my top priorities.

Yesterday, I introduced my legislative recommendations for terrorism preparedness.

We're focusing on four basic areas: planning, identification and detection, training, and response.

In the planning area, we're asking for 4.9 million dollars over the next two years.

That money will be used to coordinate terrorism assessment, and develop and implement data management systems to keep us up-to-date on the resources we have for timely emergency response.

Our plan calls for more than 5 million dollars for the Health and Agriculture departments to develop safe testing methods, quickly produce test results and provide analysis of weapons of mass destruction agents.

We're requesting more than 1.4 million dollars over the next two years for training and exercise for emergency responders like you at both the state and local levels.

That includes bomb squad and HAZMAT teams, food safety people and Health Department personnel who coordinate training and outbreak response.

And speaking of response, we're recommending 5 and a half million dollars over two years for equipment upgrades, additional staff and expanded technology.

I realize these are lean times, but you know better than anyone that terrorism preparedness is NOT the place to be cutting back right now.

I have already presented a detailed plan to eliminate the nearly 2-billion dollar shortfall that's projected, and now that the Legislature is in session, I expect action, and soon.

Today is February 1st. If the Legislature fails to take serious action by *mid*-February, we're going to be faced with losing around $3.7 million dollars in revenue for every week of delay.

And you know what that means: even bigger spending cuts and less service.

Together, we have a responsibility to balance our budget, pass a redistricting plan and a capital-bonding bill. Those are our constitutional responsibilities and we should take them seriously.

So I'm asking legislators to do a flip-flop from their usual routine.

Do the important budget work first and once we have solved these very serious problems, then the legislature take up other issues like stadiums.

Clearly, if they manage their time well and face up to their responsibility to make tough decisions we can get these things done.

A few weeks ago I announced my administration's plan to reduce the deficit. I characterized it as spreading the pain around: giving everyone a headache, instead of an impacted wisdom tooth for a few.

As soon as I announced my plan, everyone was quick to point out what's wrong with it.

But I haven't been hearing too many alternatives.

My proposal is comprehensive, fair and balanced.

It helps state agencies provide necessary services, in both the metro and non-metro parts of our state, and solves the problem for the long term.

I'll tell you what is NOT part of the solution: opening up last year's historic tax reform bill, which is another suggestion I've been hearing.

Some people claim last year's tax cuts caused the deficit. I want to know why the same people don't then criticize the new spending that was in the tax bill.

You can't have it both ways, saying only the tax reform aspect of the bill caused the shortfall and the spending had nothing to do with it.

The tax reforms did not cause our financial problems. It has been well documented that this shortfall is a result of a nation-wide economic downturn and the events of September 11th.

When it comes down to it, our economic problems are not someone's "fault."

No one in state government acted irresponsibly to put us into this position.

But here we are, so now we need to work together.

It's not the time to be pointing fingers and playing politics.

The people of Minnesota elected us to do a job and now more than ever they're looking to us to do it.

By the way, one of my other jobs is promoting Minnesota, so I'm just going to take just a minute to talk to those of your from out of state.

If you have time, try to check out some of our tourist activities.

Our tourism industry is one the things we're proudest of in Minnesota.

If you're passing through the Twin Cities, stop by the Mall of America.

If you have some free time while you're here in Duluth, you can go skiing at Spirit Mountain or visit the Great Lakes Aquarium.

I'm going to be doing my radio show at the aquarium later this morning, and I'm excited to see it--it's just a couple years old and I haven't been there yet.

And, if you're pressed for time now, try to come back and visit us this summer. We have some of the best camping, fishing, and water-skiing around.

In fact there's really nothing that compares to the beauty of northern Minnesota, so take advantage of it.

Thank you for all of the life-saving work you do, and I hope you have a productive conference.

Now I'll take a few questions.



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Governor Jesse Ventura
Governor's Conference on Tourism
DECC, Duluth
January 31, 2002

Good afternoon.

I'm glad to be back again this year to talk about one of my favorite topics--Tourism.

However, quite a bit has changed for the industry since I last addressed this group.

Terrorism dealt the United States a deadly blow September 11. The effects were wide and deep, with the travel and tourism industry being hit the hardest.

For months after, Americans were afraid to fly and are still nervous about traveling. Add the national recession and we've had a dilemma to deal with.

This year I want to talk about what we are going to do about it.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism's main goal is to promote Minnesota as a travel destination. They assist an industry--your industry--that brings in 9-billion dollars and supports 130,000 jobs.

The Office of Tourism is working full-steam ahead to assist the tourism industry. Isn't that right, John?

Matter-of-fact, shortly after September 11 John Edman called together the Tourism Task Force. What came out of it was Explore Minnesota Now!

Explore Minnesota Now! kicked off in October when the Office of Tourism personally made sales trips and met with tour operators from Wisconsin, Iowa, Winnipeg, and Minnesota.

And in November they coordinated a business summit, which was

held at my office and included a who's who of Minnesota business leaders.

The week after that was something I'm very proud of: A very large and successful travel fair at the Mall of America. Put together in less than a month, resorts, hotels, bed & breakfasts, convention and visitor's bureaus and others set up shop at the Mall for a weekend to offer Minnesotans special deals and discounts.

It was designed to kick-start our local travel. The Twin Cities media, I have to give them SOME CREDIT, did a nice job of covering this special event. Explore Minnesota Now! generated nearly $140,000 in media coverage.

The Office of Tourism also promoted online travel specials through their Web site Explore Minnesota dot com

They stepped up radio spots, and they conducted many broadcast interviews on Minnesota travel.

We still need to think abroad too.

800,000 international travelers visit Minnesota each year.

I've visited Japan, Chicago, California, Washington, D.C., and Canada to promote tourism, and

in March I will travel to Germany to promote Minnesota at the world's largest travel exhibition in Berlin.

While there, I'll be speaking at a reception for major German tour operators at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Daniel Coats. The following day, I will address 1,000 German tour operators, travel agents and travel media representatives

Germany is a major international tourism market that provides Minnesota with its third largest source of overseas visitors every year.

Given the impact on the travel industry following the events of September 11, it's more important than ever to get out the 'Explore Minnesota' message to our European market.

Representatives from the Mall of America, the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association and Bluefin Bay will join me.

Maybe I'll invite a few German reporters to go golfing!

Who says I don't like the media?

Last fall we had the first ever Governor's Fall Golf Classic, or better known as "The Jackal Open," at Superior National in Lutsen.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism hosted the event, and from what I hear it was a tremendous success. Unfortunately, the morning I was to fly up the weather prevented me from making the trip.

More than 50 golf writers from the Midwest came to play. They were treated to a beautiful course. No offense John, but I hear you need to hit the practice range. Better yet, I hear Rebecca Yanisch hits em pretty well; maybe she can give you a few tips.

Minnesota is the #1 golf state based on rounds played per capita.

Minnesota has over 450 golf courses. In a state with 5 months of winter (at least most years)--we love our golf and travelers do too.

This year we want to do it earlier in the season to maximize the media coverage.

In May, we will be having the second annual Governor's Fall Golf Classic--actually we'll need to change the title to Spring or Summer, won't we? I like the sound of Jackal Open, that'll do.

Along with the Minnesota Golf Alliance, the Office of Tourism will invite even MORE media to play golf in Minnesota.

For the media here--you might want to write this down--this is news:

The second annual Jackal Open will be June 2nd and 3rd in Brainerd at The Classic at Madden's Resort.

I will also be looking forward to the Governor's Fishing Opener in International Falls this year, where more than 150 media members will see what we all know: There is no finer place in the world to fresh water fish than Minnesota.

As you can see, we have a lot of wonderful things coming up to help promote Minnesota travel and tourism.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism is there for you. Call them. Together we will improve Minnesota travel and tourism.

Coming up in a few minutes the Office of Tourism will unveil their

new ad campaign for spring, and from what my staff tells me it's really good.

Last year I closed with something that I think should be repeated after the year we've had:

I challenge you to go home and think big, think bold, and come up with new ideas and new ways of doing business, new ways of building tourism.

We've worked hard for Minnesota tourism in the past three years, and together, we'll tell Minnesota's story.

As your Tourism Governor, I promise to continue to promote Minnesota travel and tourism. Let's not forget: we have the best product in the world.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Domestic Security Package for Minnesota
State Capitol, Saint Paul
January 31, 2002

Summary of Spending Proposals
Summary of Policy Initiatives
MN Homeland Security Site

SPEECH

In the aftermath of September 11th two priorities are at the top of everyone's agenda: public health and public safety.

The bulk of the work in fighting terrorism will fall on six state agencies.

That's why I'm here today with the Commissioners of Health, Public Safety, Agriculture, Pollution Control, Military Affairs and Administration - to outline our proposal for domestic security.

We are fortunate in Minnesota to already have a strong system to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

But now we have additional threats to be concerned with, so we must get extra prepared.

Our measured, strategic package includes new spending to strengthen our public health and safety networks and new policy initiatives to make sure state and local authorities can quickly and effectively respond to any emergency.

We need to apply our resources to expand four key functions: (as you can see on the chart):

- planning
- early identification and detection
- training
- and response.

PLANNING

About $5 million over four years will do several things:

- Pay for staff to coordinate information, assess terrorist threats, and make plans to deal with them
- Create systems to keep track of essential resources - things we might need quickly if there's an emergency
- Create a link between public health agencies and local emergency units - so they can work together quickly if something big happens

EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND DETECTION

I've seen the labs we have available to detect and analyze toxic chemicals and biological agents - and they are not up to snuff.

That's why our bonding request includes $85 million for a new lab facility.

Beyond that we still need to spend about $5 million in the next four years for staff and special equipment to develop safe and fast testing methods.

If something deadly strikes, we need to identify it quickly and correctly.

TRAINING

Our emergency units already have plenty of training and experience in dealing with natural disasters and other ordinary emergencies.

But we also have to be trained for extra-ordinary emergencies.

Local and state response units, bomb squads and hazmat teams need to know how to respond to weapons of mass destruction.

Additional public health staff is needed to coordinate training and outbreak response.

We also need to train personnel involved in food safety and agriculture security to respond to any sort of outbreak.

RESPONSE

Planning and training pay off with quick and effective action.

With $5.5 million dollars over the next four years, we can pay for the staff, equipment and technology we need to respond to

terrorism.

This includes things like enhanced Capitol security, equipment upgrades, and improved communications systems.

We need a system to allow the Department of Health to reach the public health network and other responders at any time - 24/7.

We are also recommending expanding the role of our chemical assessment teams to include both assessment and mitigation. This change will ensure a quick response anywhere in the state.

Federal, state and local governments have a shared responsibility to protect our people, our food supply and the environment.

These new state investments are added to more than $9 million dollars in federal funds currently available for terrorism response in Minnesota.

We expect more federal money in fiscal year 2002 to improve all facets of our state and local readiness to fight terrorism.

And the President is proposing a budget in 2003 that would double the homeland security budget, including a 10-fold increase in resources for first responders.

The second major part of our package to provide domestic security in Minnesota involves policy changes that strengthen emergency authorities, identify and immobilize terrorists, and provide tougher penalties for terrorist acts**.**

We must remember that the war against terrorism is a war, and we need to make it easier for authorities to act quickly in times of emergency.

For example, if there's a public health emergency, we need to know the chain of command and how to ensure a coordinated response.

Because we must move quickly during emergencies, we are proposing authority to waive or suspend certain statutes, rules and regulations to expedite emergency response.

If we discover contaminated food is causing a major problem, we need the authority to embargo that item to a limited geographical area.

If we confront bio-terrorism, we need to be able to quarantine ill people, or those exposed to a biological agent, to limit the spread

of the disease.

In such emergencies, we also need the authority to control health facilities and direct medical resources.

But the smartest thing to do, and the best thing to do, is to prevent terrorism - stop it before it starts.

We need more information and more sharing of information across agencies and across jurisdictions.

Sometimes, to identify possible terrorists and investigate threats, we may need to share private health information with certain people.

In certain circumstances, we should allow law enforcement to share information from criminal investigations with certain agencies.

Agencies should also be allowed to share information related to the planning of possible terrorist acts and protect security information that could be used to plan a terrorist attack.

Finally, we need to improve our criminal laws to deal with terrorists.

We need to make terrorism a specific crime - and set some harsh penalties for it.

We also need to stop their money flow by "freezing" their assets**.**

We need to know what terrorists are communicating - so we need to update our wire-tap laws, to conform with the federal law.

This war is not going to be easy or short. We are in it for the long run, and we have to take it seriously, but without over-reacting.

I have outlined our general approach - and there are plenty more details.

Before I let you ask questions of the various commissioners, I'd like to say I look forward to working with the Legislature on this important proposal and passing a reasonable and measured package that will protect and support public health and safety in Minnesota.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Legislative Priorities
Radisson South, Bloomington
January 29, 2002

Good evening.

I hope you're all enjoying this un-Minnesota-like winter we've been having.

The nice thing about being a Minnesotan is that if you need a shot of real winter, you can always find one.

So I'm going to Duluth later this week.

But no matter where I go in this state, we all have one thing in common: that one-point-nine billion dollar deficit hanging over our heads.

And as of today, with the Legislature opening, things are a lot busier at the Capitol as we try to solve that problem.

But with the opening of the session, the clock is really ticking.

This year the Legislature can't do its usual talk, talk, talk and then try to cut a quick deal and get everything done in the last minute.

You're all business people.

You have to work with real time deadlines--self-imposed deadlines.

Can you imagine waiting until December 31st to look at your books?

Any business that does that would soon be *out* of business.

If we, the elected officials, wait until our statutory deadline, we are failing our state.

That traditional approach is just not going to work. It just makes the hole bigger and harder to crawl out of.

In fact, if the Legislature fails to take serious action by mid-February, we're going to be faced with losing around $3.7 million dollars in revenue for every week of delay.

You know what that means: even bigger spending cuts and less service.

Together, we have a responsibility to balance our budget, pass a redistricting plan and a capital-bonding bill. Those are our constitutional responsibilities and we should take them seriously.

So I'm asking legislators to do a flip-flop from their usual routine.

Do the important budget work first and once we have solved these very serious problems, and only then, should the legislature take up issues like my favorite issue, unicameral, and your favorite issue, joint and several liability.

Clearly, if they manage their time well and face up to their responsibility to make tough decisions we can get these things done.

A few weeks ago I announced my administration's plan to reduce the deficit. I characterized it as spreading the pain around: giving everyone a headache, instead of an impacted wisdom tooth for a few.

One of the criticisms we've been hearing comes from Greater Minnesota--that our plan unfairly puts the biggest burden on the rural communities outside the Twin Cities.

That's just not true.

For instance, on average state aid payments are reduced more than 16 percent to metro cities, compared with less than 11 percent for cities outside the metro area.

Overall, the state has a 7.6 percent budget shortfall, yet our plan recommends that cities, no matter where they are, receive cuts of, on average, 5.1 percent of their property tax and state aid base. For counties the average is 2.8 percent.

Sure, anyone can single out an example of a city or county that got hit harder than average, but overall I'm not seeing how rural communities are being asked to take a bigger hit.

"Well, how about the gas tax," the critics say. "That's got to be worse for rural Minnesota."

I'm not sure a gas tax increase is harder on rural Minnesota.

It's the balance between all taxes that counts: income tax, property tax, sales tax and others.

My gas tax solution is not something that I wanted to do. But I take my responsibility very seriously and in the end, to make the gas tax a part of the solution creates a fair and balanced package.

You don't like it?

You want all the proceeds to go to transportation?

Well, so would I, but then what?

Most of this tax will help solve the general fund deficit and if we were to dedicate it all to roads, somewhere we have to come up with another $200 million.

Where?

I keep hearing what's wrong with my plan but I am hearing little about significant alternatives.

One suggestion is to freeze hiring.

I'm not criticizing this suggestion, but I will point out that the claim that we can save hundreds of millions of dollars through a hiring freeze is based on some faulty math.

My Department of Employee Relations tells me that whomever worked up this plan figured in all open positions in state government and treated them as full time employees making an average of $56 thousand dollars a year.

Well, it turns out that over half the vacant positions in state government are part-time. These are short-term positions like temporary tax workers and snow plow drivers.

A correct analysis shows that a hiring freeze could save the general fund around $20 million dollars, not the three hundred million advertised by those who proposed it.

My point is, while $20 million dollars isn't chicken feed, it is only

about one percent of the $2 billion dollar deficit.

If you don't like my solution, that's fine, but the people deserve a comprehensive solution and not false hopes.

My proposal is comprehensive, fair and balanced. It helps state agencies provide necessary services, in both the metro and non-metro parts of our state, and solves the problem for the long term.

I'll tell you what is NOT part of the solution: opening up last year's historic tax reform bill, which is another suggestion I've been hearing.

Some people claim last year's tax cuts caused the deficit. I want to know why the same people don't then criticize the new spending that was in the tax bill.

You can't have it both ways, saying only the tax reform aspect of the bill caused the shortfall and the spending had nothing to do with it.

The tax reforms did not cause our financial problems. It has been well documented that this shortfall is a result of a nation-wide economic downturn and the events of September 11th.

I've read some legislators refer to "unintended consequences" of the tax bill.

Come on. They knew what they were voting for.

In the senate the vote was 52 to 11.

When it comes down to it, our economic problems are not someone's "fault."

No one in state government acted irresponsibly to put us into this position.

A couple of months ago, when the shortfall was announced, I spoke to your board of directors, and I stressed one point above all others: we need to work together.

Even though we're two months closer to November's elections, it's *still* not the time to be pointing fingers and playing politics.

Don't worry--there will be plenty of time for that in the fall.

But we have a problem to solve right now, and playing the blame

game just isn't going to cut it.

The people of Minnesota elected us to do a job and now more than ever they're looking to us to do it.

So let's hear those alternatives.

I never said my solution is the perfect one.

But right now, it's the only one.

We've heard from the critics--now it's their turn to do more than criticize. Now is the time to come together with a comprehensive and long-term solution.

Be assured that I will not accept anything less.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Capital Bonding Message
Minnesota Department of Health
Minneapolis
January 14, 2002

Good morning.

Thank you Commissioner Malcolm.

And thanks to all the commissioners and staff who worked very hard to help put together this capital budget proposal.

Recently it seems that every time I make a recommendation some politician will label it a "Jesse" something or other.

Well, I'm going to recommend a few projects today and so I suppose the "candidates" will have a jolly old time labeling them "Jesse" projects.

One candidate will no doubt say that I recommended too many "Jesse" projects and the other will probably say that I didn't recommend enough "Jesse" projects.

But seriously, today I am making my recommendation of projects to be included in my 2002 Capital Budget.

Just as I did two years ago, I prepared this budget with great care. I based my decisions on straightforward principles of self-sufficiency, doing what's necessary rather than what's nice, and always remembering that it's the people's money.

This year, like two years ago, the wish list was long. Clearly, if I wanted to be Santa Claus I could have signed off on all two billion dollars worth of requests.

But I didn't run for this job to get my name on a building or to be fiscally irresponsible.

I looked at the requests for bonding with an eye toward protecting the health and safety of Minnesota citizens and state employees.

I wanted to be sure that we were careful to preserve the investments the state has already made. Asset preservation was an important goal.

I made strategic choices that were consistent with the goals of my Big Plan and smart growth principles.

I looked for key opportunities to take advantage of federal matching funds.

And finally, I held fast to the principle that we should ensure that, for the most part, capital budget projects have a significant statewide impact.

This year I am recommending that the capital budget contain $746 million dollars in projects financed with state general obligation bonds.

In addition, I am recommending $66 million dollars in projects that will be paid by user financing, $2 million dollars from the general fund and $31 million from the trunk highway fund.

My recommendation of $746 million in general obligation bonds is higher than I have recommended in the past and exceeds the state's ten year average of $563 million.

I want to emphasize that my decision to recommend this amount is based on my belief that the specific projects I have chosen are absolutely necessary to preserve state assets, enhance and preserve public safety, diversify our transportation system, and renew and enrich our outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities.

I want to assure you that this capital budget is within our 3 % debt management guideline and will not upset the structural balance of the supplemental budget recommendations I announced last Thursday.

I believe that for the most part the projects I have recommended are ones that will benefit the entire state. The locations of these projects are almost equally spread between greater Minnesota and the seven county metropolitan area.

You have all received the book that lists my recommendations in detail and therefore I won't go through them all. But I do want to

highlight a couple.

First, given the location of this press conference, I believe that it is appropriate to talk about my recommendation to build a new $85 million dollar joint laboratory facility in St. Paul for the departments of Health and Agriculture.

This project would be built in St. Paul and include office facilities for the two departments.

Protecting public health and safety is a basic responsibility of government.

But at no time in recent history has this responsibility been more evident or more important.

The events of September 11 have certainly raised concerns about our country's and our state's preparedness to deal with a public health disaster.

Given these concerns, and the fact that we were already in dire need for upgraded laboratory facilities, I believe the time is right to ensure the safety of our citizens and begin this very important project.

Another important project that I am recommending is $120 million in state bonding to match an additional $139 million in federal funds and $27 million in local commitments for land acquisition, design and construction of the North star commuter rail line between St. Cloud and Minneapolis.

This project would include a connection to the Hiawatha light rail transit line in downtown Minneapolis.

As I have said many times, we need to make smart investments to further the development of a multi-model transportation system in Minnesota.

This project is a smart investment that will have a significant impact on relieving congestion for all Minnesotans as they travel to, and bring products in and out of the twin city metropolitan area.

And finally I want to talk briefly about our state parks.

Each year an estimated 8and a half million visitors come to Minnesota's 80 state parks and recreation areas. That's a lot of people and they spend a lot of money.

In fact, recent trends are showing that travel and tourism is right there with agri-business as a leading sector of Minnesota's economy.

This is a time that I believe we need to make sure that we maintain our recreation assets to preserve and improve our tourism economy.

Therefore, I am recommending an unprecedented $40 million dollars in funding for a state park improvement initiative to restore pride in our state parks.

These are just three examples of what I believe to be a prudent, but wise list of capital projects, that will continue our efforts to make Minnesota the best place to live.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Budget Shortfall Message
Harold E. Stassen (Revenue) Building, St. Paul
January 10, 2002

Good morning.

A week ago today I delivered the State of the State to give people a basic understanding of the budget shortfall facing our state.

Now comes the hard part.

Today, after weeks of number crunching, program analysis, and philosophical debate I am prepared to fulfill my responsibility and recommend a comprehensive, long-term solution to the budget shortfall created by the national recession.

What you will get today is the result of some very hard work by some very talented and very dedicated public servants working for the Ventura Administration.

I want to thank each and every one of them.

I want to thank the hundreds of citizens who called, wrote and personally expressed their opinions on how to attack this problem.

I want to thank the Mayors and County Commissioners who took of their valuable time to personally provide me with their counsel.

I want to thank business community leaders who made timely and insightful suggestions as we contemplated these decisions.

I want to thank the advocates for public safety, affordable housing, education, health care and others, who worked with my commissioners, my staff, and me as we worked through this very intense and agonizing process.

It is a big problem:

A $1.95 billion dollar shortfall for this biennium - and $1.25 billion dollars for each of the next two following years.

And no matter how many times someone wishes, it is not going away unless we make the tough decisions to solve the problem.

Today you will see that I am ready to make those tough decisions.

I will not hide behind quick fixes or short-term solutions. I will not mislead the people into thinking that we can wait this problem out.

We cannot.

We cannot wait this problem out because the damage that is done to our budget is real and is permanent-unless we fix it for the long-term.

Why?

Because the November forecast already anticipates that the economy will begin its comeback as early as the second quarter of this year.

Let me repeat: The November forecast that projects an almost two billion dollar shortfall is already counting on the country coming out of the recession by March of this year.

And, contrary to speculation, the most recent revenue information we have indicates that nothing has changed.

The wishful thinkers who argue that we should do nothing because an improving economy will solve our problem do not get it.

Reality is this: Revenues lost to a recession are never regained.

Period.

And even if economic growth is "normal" in the next biennium we will have less money because the growth comes from a lower base.

The bottom line is: If you look at the problem honestly and not through politically colored glasses - we need a permanent fix.

No gimmicks.

No waiting for the fairy godmother to come along after the elections.

No irresponsible borrowing from Peter to pay Paul. And,

No delay.

No delay, because the longer we take to solve the problem the more difficult it becomes.

In fact, I asked my staff to calculate how much money would be lost for every week's delay. The answer is shocking: $3.7 million a week in lost revenue which would then result in higher spending cuts for every week the legislature fails to act.

Now is the time for straightforward, pragmatic and definitive action.

First, we must cut spending.

In 2002 and 2003 I am proposing cuts of $700 million dollars to the general budget.

Because we have less than eighteen months left in the current biennium I intend to lessen the pain in '02 & '03 by taking advantage of some one-time balances, drawing down the budget reserve and refinancing some road projects with highway bonds.

Keep in mind though that an integral part of this solution is a very specific plan to partially restore the budget reserve by the first year of the next biennium.

The impact of these proposals is that in '04 and '05 the one time money is not available and therefore spending cuts of $1.3 billion dollars make up a greater part of the solution in the next biennium.

While these cuts are substantial and widespread I believe they are fair.

For example, my departments will experience permanent cuts of anywhere from 5 to 10% and my office specifically will be cut a full 10%.

This will result in some programs and many staff positions either eliminated or left unfilled.

As I went through this process there were many difficult decisions, but among them were areas that were particularly tough. Among those difficult areas were education, local government, health care, human services, the courts, transportation and public safety.

Over the past three years I approved spending increases to education of over $1.4 billion dollars. Last year we passed historic tax reform

that allowed the state to assume responsibility for the majority of K-12 funding. And also last year we passed significant education policy reforms that I hope will allow for increased accountability for education spending.

The debate over these initiatives has been long, hard, and at times very confusing.

But one thing that I want to make clear is that the shortfalls some districts are experiencing are not because of the tax reform.

In fact, last year's tax bill simply paid the same amount to the school districts directly out of state funds instead of your local property taxes. In addition, we added a $415 dollar per pupil payment to the formula to begin in 2003.

A more likely explanation for the shortfalls is some districts anticipated extra growth in revenues and taxes that voters didn't approve.

That's local control.

Just how much money does education require?

Believe me, I asked myself the question many times over the past few months. But I still don't have the answer. What I know is that K-12 education funding takes up over 40% of the state's total budget and while most districts seem to be doing fine, many districts appear to be in financial dire straits.

Of course this debate will go on forever. But, in the meantime, we must act and we must solve this budget problem. Therefore my plan recommends less than a 1% cut to the K-12 budget in '02/'03 and a 2.6% cut in '04/'05.

In the interest of not directly hurting the students we will not reduce the basic per pupil funding in the state general education formula.

While this is considerably less than many other areas of the budget, I imagine that like everything I do in education - it will be controversial. But I will not be deterred.

Be assured that I don't want to fight with education. While I am very proud of the students and the schools continuing efforts to provide a quality education, I feel a very strong sense of responsibility to continue my efforts to bring accountability and understanding to a very confusing education finance system.

And then there was Health and Human Services.

In this area I made an effort to be very careful not to affect the most vulnerable in our society. For example I let stand the increase to nursing home workers that was provided in last year's legislation. In addition, I stayed away from programs that are helping to provide health care to our poorest children.

And finally, as I said in my state of the state all levels of government must share in this solution. Therefore I am asking that cities and counties accept relatively small reductions in state aid.

To do this we have devised a system that will protect those cities and counties that have shown restraint by limiting their increases in levies and overall revenue. However, we are recommending a reduction to cities that will, on average, amount to 5.1% of their overall property tax levy and state aid revenue base.

For counties, the reduction will amount to an average of 2.8%.

Next year's state aids and property tax revenue collected by cities will increase by an average of almost 9%. For counties it is scheduled to grow by over 6%. That would indicate to me that most cities and counties have the ability to adjust their budgets to offset the effects of the recession.

Of course many will complain that this reduction will only result in property taxes going up. In some cases they may be right, but in most cases that should only happen as a last resort.

In an effort to restrain cities and counties from automatically raising property taxes and to encourage citizen involvement, I am recommending that voter approval be required in some circumstances where counties and cities attempt to increase levies to make up for their reduction in state aids.

Again, that's local control.

And finally, I would like to address the issue of local government fund balances:

My plan does not directly "raid" any local government fund balances - but it does expect local governments to make use of their reserves to tide them over the short run while they make their own permanent decisions about taxes and spending - just as the state will be doing.

We are also giving local governments more flexibility to use these

reserves by moving up half of July's state aid payments to March.

I am sure that over the next few days and weeks much will be said, both positive and negative, about my approach. But in all sincerity, I have worked hard to fix this problem with sensitivity and fairness.

These choices were not easy for me to make.

However, in order to keep from devastating some areas of the budget and severely hurting local government and schools it was necessary for me to go where I hoped I wouldn't have to:

Taxes.

In order to balance this solution and mitigate the stress on programs such as nursing homes and schools, I am recommending that we raise the tax on gasoline, cigarette and tobacco products, expand the sales tax to a limited number of services and items and make some very targeted changes in the individual and corporate income tax.

The cigarette tax is a consumption tax that is paid by choice. And just as important is that a tax increase on cigarettes and tobacco products will have a significant long-term positive impact on health care costs.

The gas tax increase of 5 cents and the indexing of the tax will allow us to backfill most of the general fund dollars that pay for the reductions you receive for your car license tabs and in the future fund additional highway projects.

Transportation and transit was another one of those very difficult areas to consider for cuts.

In my first budget I worked hard to convince the legislature that our transportation and transit needs are great and proposed permanent funding that would meet the needs of a multi-modal transportation system for years to come.

The legislature failed to pass my plan and now it is two years later and we are still trying to find adequate funding.

While we have made some progress, we have not made enough, and therefore I believe it is imperative that we not cut any transportation projects or transit services.

This gas tax increase will be the first in 13 years and by indexing the tax to the rate of inflation we will provide stability to a

transportation-funding source and preserve its purchasing power.

When I started this process I said that I would approach this problem in a responsible and fair manner.

By making careful use of our reserves I have held spending cuts and revenue increases in the current biennium to an absolute minimum.

However, as I said all along, in order to preserve our triple 'A'credit rating we must structurally balance the budget out four years.

For those who would do it differently I would give this advice: As I went through this process I determined that everything had to be on the table. And, in the end, "everything" in this budget is touched.

However, let me warn you that if the legislature does not take a balanced approach, areas of the budget that many of you have proclaimed "off limits," like education and nursing homes, may necessarily take a much bigger hit.

I am asking the legislature to take some time to analyze these recommendations and be prepared to act in the first week of February.

Remember, there is a presumption that the legislature will adopt this plan in early February in order to spread out the impact of the spending cuts and begin the flow of new revenues.

If you do not act on the complete package, I will act on those parts of the package that I can. After that, we will all have to deal with the very serious consequences for the remainder of our budget.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
State of the State Address
Governor's Residence, St. Paul
January 3, 2002

Good evening--I'm speaking to you from the Governor's Residence in St. Paul.

This past year the longest lasting economic expansion in United States history came to an end. For years we had been warned that what goes up must come down--and indeed it did.

Last March the country quietly slipped into a recession. However, while there was little notice at the time, it all came crashing home on September 11, 2001.

But as I said after the terrorist attacks, no one, not Osama Bin Laden, nor any of his terrorists can take away our resilience.

When 35,000 of you stood in the rain on the capitol grounds on Sunday, September 16, it was clear that Minnesotans would not forget, and together we will preserve our freedom and rebuild our economy.

And so tonight, I want to talk to you about the challenges the recession brings to the state of Minnesota.

Forty-four states, including Minnesota, are facing budget deficits.

The fact is, people in Minnesota and across the country are getting laid off from their jobs and when that happens families cut back, they buy less, they travel less and so, they pay less taxes.

Over two years Minnesota will collect almost $2 billion dollars less in taxes and fees than we thought.

And just as important, in all the years after that, revenues will be about $1.2 billion dollars less than we have committed to spend.

Even though some economists are saying that the economy is beginning to improve, the impact of the recession, and the lost revenue, will always be with us. Unless we bring revenue and spending back into balance we will face continuing budget shortfalls into the future.

As your elected representatives, we have a duty not to just solve the short-run problem, but to face the tough choices required for a permanent budget solution.

The governor and the legislature are required by law to rework the budget and make sure that by the end of this current cycle we have a balanced budget. That's our legal obligation, but some will want to stop there, put off the tough decisions until after the elections and hope for the best.

I won't stand for that.

As I promised you when I was elected I have continued my effort to find an appropriate balance between the amount of money the state collects in taxes and the high level of services that Minnesota citizens have come to expect.

This, of course, is always a dilemma.

Clearly, Minnesota taxpayers have been frustrated as our state continued to rank as one of the most highly taxed in the nation.

Over the past three years my administration has carefully managed our resources to bring down your property taxes, your income taxes, many business taxes and the cost of your car license tabs.

We have created a more fair tax environment that has provided significant property tax reductions in all property classifications, and also succeeded in giving citizens more direct control over the amount of property tax they pay.

However, in addition to lowering taxes, we have also worked hard to make sure that the taxes you do pay bring the most value possible.

When I visit schools I often tell students that the state does not manufacture dollars in the basement of the capitol. Every dollar that we get sent to us comes from the fruits of someone's labor.

I tell the students that when a worker spends an entire day digging a hole and gets a paycheck of one hundred dollars, the government is

going to take about thirty-five dollars of that one hundred to benefit people who didn't have anything to do with digging that hole.

I use this example to illustrate why I am so focused on accountability and results.

I use it to emphasize how important it is to make sure that we are not wasting the fruits of that ditch digger's hard labor.

Ten years ago the state of Minnesota's two-year budget was $ 13.6 billion dollars. In the current two-year budget cycle we will spend almost $28 billion dollars on state provided services.



That's big government.

We build and maintain roads, bridges, prisons and schools.

We educate our children, we care for our elderly and we protect the public's safety.

We do all these things and much more.

But unfortunately, as you saw on the previous chart, every year that we do more it will cost you more in taxes.

It is my belief that when we are facing a two billion dollar budget deficit we should concentrate on what is necessary and not necessarily what's nice.

And so tonight I would like to talk to you about how we might tackle this budget shortfall.

Basically, we have three options:



Cut spending,

Raise taxes, or

We could try to use election year budget gimmicks.

The first two options are legitimate options. The third is just not responsible.

But whatever we do, we need to do it quickly.

We are already six months into our two-year budget and every day that passes without making adjustments means there will be less money in the bank to cushion the blow of budget cutting.

With that in mind, three months ago I began preparing for the worst, and asked my staff and commissioners to begin working on a budget reduction plan that would focus on eliminating programs rather than just cutting across the board.

When considering cuts, I instructed them that everything should be on the table.

In this process there should be no sacred cows.

In addition, I met with legislative leaders and urged them to work together with us to develop a plan that could be implemented early this year.

Clearly, under no circumstances will I tolerate this process dragging

on and on, getting bogged down in political turf wars and end up spending even more of your hard earned tax dollars on special legislative sessions.

Now is the time to put aside election year politics and act quickly on what is in the best interests of the people.

The time to fix this problem is now and not in April, May or June during a special session.

And when I say fix I don't mean a political quick fix that would simply postpone the problem and leave it for another year. That's the election year budget gimmick approach that I said earlier is not an option.

Sure, I could take the politically safe approach and use accounting gimmicks to delay making tough decisions, choose not to run again and ride off into the sunset and leave another governor and the taxpayers to deal with the mess.

But I won't do that.

After I was elected I pledged that I would leave the budget in as good a shape as it was when I took over. Whether I leave this job this year or five years from now I will not go back on that promise.

Minnesota leaders have worked hard to gain the respect of Wall Street, and along with only ten other states, we have obtained the highest credit rating in the nation. That triple-A credit rating allows us to borrow money to finance building projects at the lowest interest rate available and consequently save millions of dollars in interest payments.

If we try to solve this budget problem with quick fix accounting gimmicks or borrowing on future revenue sources, you can be sure that Wall Street will be watching and our credit rating will suffer.

I assure you that I will not allow our triple-A credit rating to be put in jeopardy.

And so now we must ask, how ***do*** we solve this problem?

First of all, we are fortunate that we did plan well.

Last year, we worked with the legislature and provided a beefed up reserve fund of $653 million dollars. We left $235 million dollars in the budget that we didn't spend and provided a $350 million cash flow account.

But it is important to understand that while these funds help us in the short term, they will soon be gone and not available for the long term. This money helps, but only to give us a little time to make the real tough decisions.

Likewise, some argue that if we had not given rebates we could have avoided this problem, but the truth is the rebate money was a one-time surplus that would not have solved the long-term problem of reduced revenues as a result of a national economic recession.

Remember, if the rebate dollars had been used for new spending or permanent tax cuts, our budget problem would be even worse.

When I hear that rebate argument, I simply point out that if the rebates were the problem, why do 43 other states--most of whom didn't give rebates--now have budget shortfalls?

And so the answer to what we do is obvious: First, we must cut our expenses.

But as I said that will not be easy.

Consider this:

Of the entire $28 billion dollar general fund budget, only five budget areas consume 85% of it.



As you can see on the chart the five are:

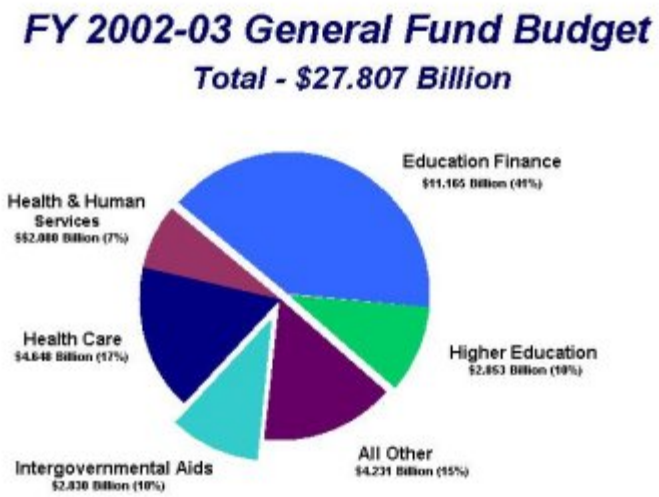
K-12 Education,

Higher Education,

State aids sent to local governments,

Health Care, and

Human Services.



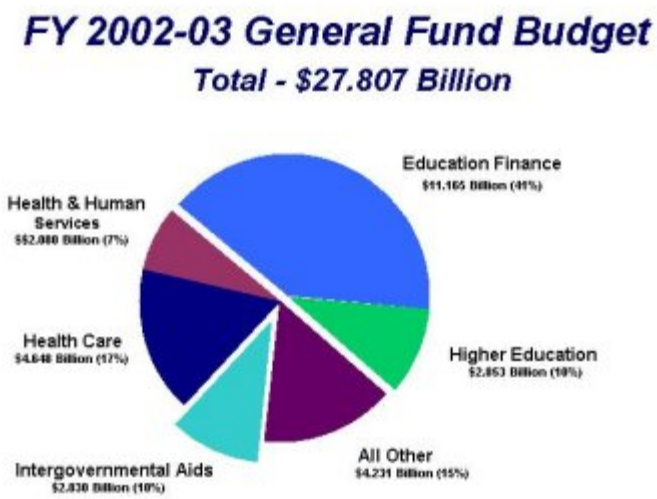
Even more revealing is that if you combine K-12 education and Higher Education, the two make up over 50% of the budget.

Another tough example is health care. After education, it is the largest area of state spending, and at 29% growth from the last biennium, it is the fastest growing spending item in the budget.

Remember, the more we spend, the more fruits of the ditch digger's labor must go to the government.

I warned you that this isn't going to be easy.

For example, lets look again at the big five budget areas.



Notice that a huge part of the state's budget is given to cities and counties. Because one purpose of these payments to local governments is to hold down property taxes--some might question if it's working.

It is a substantial amount of money and may very well have to be a part of the overall budget solution. However, if some reduction of aid to cities and counties does become a reality, I would expect them to use their reserves, cut costs and reduce services.

Only as a last resort should local property taxes be raised.

Of course, after considering how difficult it may be to cut spending, I fully expect some citizens may lean toward raising taxes.

But as I said earlier, I am not looking for an easy way out. While I am not ruling out any option, I want to cut spending first, and I will **adamantly** oppose any undoing of the major tax reforms and accountability measures we passed last year.

However, in fairness, I have said that every legitimate option should be on the table and therefore we should talk about taxes that could be raised to avoid even bigger spending cuts.

For example, some people have suggested increasing the gas tax.

Likewise others have suggested raising the tax on cigarettes, extending the sales tax to clothing or re-visiting my proposal to lower the sales tax but extend it to some services.

These are just some of the taxes you will hear about.

We will work with you, legislators and economic experts--not only to find every dollar--but also to ensure that every dollar we find is used to its greatest value.

In that effort, one week from today I will present to you, and the legislature, a budget-balancing plan.

My expectation is that the people and the legislature will review and debate the plan and be prepared to act on the plan in the first week of the session that begins on January 29th.

If, after the first week of the session, the legislature is not ready to begin taking action, I assure you that I will not stand by and watch our state's fiscal integrity be dragged into a political quagmire.

At the appropriate time, I will begin to use my executive powers to begin cutting our expenses and avoid a budget deficit made worse by inaction.

It is absolutely imperative that the executive and legislative branches work together by acting in the best interests of our taxpayers and not politicize this process.

We will all have to accept some sacrifice, but we are not going to turn our backs on the important things that we do.

We have a workforce that is talented and dedicated to the job that must be done.

We understand the added responsibility that the war brings to our mission and we will not sacrifice your safety.

We understand that you expect the state to continue to invest in and protect the state's infrastructure and we will.

And finally, I hope you will understand that while tonight I chose to emphasize the most important challenge before us, there are things going on in our state that we can all be proud of.

Our state--and many of its cities--are often cited as the best place to do high tech business, the best place to raise a family, and one of the healthiest states in the nation.

We must be doing something right.

The terrorist attack on our country and a national economic recession are having a tremendous effect on the state of our state. But be assured, we will not bow to forces of evil nor will we shrink

in the face of economic hard times.

Thank you for listening and watching. Good night and have a happy new year.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Met Council's State of the Region
Maplewood
December 12, 2001

Thank you, Mayor Cardinal for the introduction. It's my pleasure to join with all of you today to recognize the progress we have made together--in making this state, the Twin Cities region and our communities one of the best places to live, work, raise a family and do business.

When I first appointed Ted Mondale as chair of the Metropolitan Council, it was clear that he and fellow Council members were about to take on a tough regional agenda. I'm proud to say that progress is being made on all fronts. The work you are doing is essential to support my administration's "Big Plan" for healthy, vital communities and improved service to the public.

Earlier this week, I took part in a "golden spike" ceremony to commemorate the laying of the track for Hiawatha light rail. That's progress--citizens will soon be able to make choices for commuting--by light rail, bus and roadways to the Mall of America, the international airport, downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota.

More affordable housing to support local business and our workforce are now in the marketplace because the Met Council played a key leadership role. By providing incentives and working with local government, business, community groups and citizens, more low and moderate income families have a decent place to live. That's progress.

Encouraging development--and redevelopment for our older communities--along transportation corridors and existing infrastructure so we can save tax dollars yet grow in the future. That's just common sense and the Met Council has been able to forge partnership--to leverage other public and private investment to

revitalize neighborhoods and make communities more livable. That's progress.

For the coming year, the challenges we face are daunting. Not only are we a nation at war, our state--like others in the country--must confront the realities of revenue shortfalls, job layoffs and spirits that are dampened by the issues before us. But Minnesotans have a legendary resolve and I am confident we can join together to achieve more livable communities. That, indeed, is progress as we move forward in our tri-partisan model of government.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Testimony to U.S. House committee
Washington, D.C.
December 6, 2001

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee and those members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation that are special guests of the committee today:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the millions of baseball fans across America, and specifically on behalf of Minnesota Twins fans.

This past July I turned fifty years old. In those fifty years I bet I have been told a thousand times that "life is not fair."

I'm sure my schoolmates on the playground told me that life wasn't fair.

My mother, my father and my teachers all have lamented that "life isn't fair."

Well, I am here today to tell you that in spite of all that advice, I think life should be fair.

In this great democracy I think it is the responsibility of governing bodies like Congress to make every effort to ensure that life is as fair as it can be.

And when people make decisions that are not fair there ought to be consequences.

As you know, besides being Governor, I have a reputation of being a fairly successful entrepreneur.

Well, I have been successful in my business career because I live in a country that has provided me the opportunity to be successful.

The fact is I wasn't given any special favors along the way. I had

to do it under the same laws and the same regulations as every other entrepreneur in this country.

That's only fair.

Imagine for a minute that the American Association of Cell Phone Manufacturers met in Chicago last week and at the meeting, thirty of the largest manufacturers got together for cocktails to identify which of them they could buy out and close down in order to reduce the output of their product and maximize the profitability of the remaining manufacturers.

Good idea, right?

But, of course, we all know that eventually their strategy would fail.

It would fail because first of all, their conspiracy would very likely be in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act and, in an act of fairness to all entrepreneurial Americans, the government would remedy the situation.

Right?

Or maybe, if the government failed to remedy the situation, energetic young entrepreneurs would start up new manufacturing companies and through increased competition, drive prices down and choices for cell phones up.

That's the way it works here in America.

Right.

Except for baseball.

If baseball is your business, and I emphasize business, you can meet in Chicago, conspire to control output of your product in order to maximize profits, and it is perfectly legal.

That's not fair and I think you ought to do something about it.

In 1922 when the United States Supreme Court decided Major League Baseball was a ***sport,*** not interstate commerce, perhaps it was a sport.

But today Major League Baseball is a self-regulating, billion-dollar monopoly.

Major League Baseball is really no different than OPEC. It controls supply and it controls price with absolutely no accountability.

The simple, logical, and common sense fact is that Major league Baseball is a ***business*** that should be governed by the same laws as every other ***business***.

Commissioner Selig has said that the Minnesota Twins cannot be competitive without a new stadium and therefore they should be eliminated. But without more fundamental economic reforms, many teams cannot be competitive.

I cannot understand how eliminating the Minnesota Twins, or any team, will help the Arizona Diamondbacks draw more fans or resist the temptation to pay their players more than they can afford.

The Minnesota Twins were the first American League team to draw 3 million fans.

Last season the Twins fielded a competitive team that finished second in their division and drew 1.8 million fans, 11th in the American League. The Twins average attendance was better than the Chicago White Sox, also a competitive team, but more importantly a team with a new stadium built in 1991.

Another example of the failed logic of Major League Baseball is that the Twins drew only 1,700 fewer fans per game than the Detroit Tigers,a team from a much larger market that plays in a stadium that is only two years old.

Again, baseball has economic problems. I know this. Minnesotans know this and the members of the Commissioners Blue Ribbon Panel on Baseball Economics know this.

In fact, if I could draw your attention to page 44 of the July 2000 Report of the ***Independent*** Members of the Commissioner's Blue Ribbon Panel on Baseball Ecomonics, Richard C. Levin, George J. Mitchell, Paul A. Volcker and George Will state flatly:

"If the recommendations outlined in this report are implemented, there should be no immediate need for contraction."

In this kind of environment is it surprising that Minnesotans are hesitant to build a new stadium. What would it get us? A temporary fix?

Minnesotans want assurances that an investment in a new ballpark would add long-term value and are frustrated by the tactics employed by the league. It makes sense for baseball to put its house in order before we build a new stadium.

Over the past couple of years the government has spent hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to prosecute Microsoft for alleged violations of anti-trust laws. Why?

In light of what baseball is getting away with, it just doesn't seem fair.

In every case that has come before the Supreme Court since 1922, it has been pointed out that if Congress wants to rectify the baseball situation it simply has to act. All you have to do is pass a law that says that the Sherman Act applies to all business without exception.

And this is all assuming baseball's exemption still exists, our attorney general says it doesn't, but I'll let the lawyers deal with that.

It's only fair to clarify the law and make it absolutely clear that there is no exemption.

Why baseball and not football?

Why baseball and not basketball?

This is crazy.

Common sense and fairness demand that you act now, or you know that millions of dollars will be spent to litigate the issue.

What a waste that would be.

As I said, I'm 50 years old. The Minnesota Twins have been around for 40 of those years. Every person in Minnesota who is my age or younger has had a hometown team to root for pretty much his entire life.

And that's just going to end because 30 major league baseball owners and one commissioner don't have to play by the same rules as everyone else?

We teach our kids to play fair. Now we might have to explain to them why they don't have a team to root for anymore, and when they say, "but that isn't fair," we'll just have to say, "No, it's not.

Baseball might be a fair game, but its owners have their own set of rules."

It's time for that to change.

Thank you.

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Speech

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Minneapolis, December 4, 2001

Good afternoon.

After the figures I saw this morning, it's nice to be able to speak to a group that's already going through an economic slowdown.

You all know how things have been the past six months, and especially the past two months.

You've experienced the reductions, you've had to deal with the layoffs-all the factors that drive the state revenue forecast.

So a couple of hours ago we had our annual November forecast release, and in case you haven't heard, we are looking at a projected shortfall of 1.9 billion dollars.

Now, having been governor in both prosperous times, and not-so-prosperous times, I don't plan to get too excited either way, and I certainly don't plan to panic.

Even when we had all those surpluses, I was constantly warning: don't get too comfortable, things can turn on a dime.

Because of our cautious approach, the state is extremely well-prepared for these economic times.

In fact, I would say we're better prepared than any other state in the country. And we have much more flexibility.

If you don't believe me, pick a state, take a look at its budget versus ours, and compare our situations.

For instance, California, Tennessee, even our neighbors in Wisconsin have all seen their credit rating downgraded.

We have put ourselves in a much better position.

We still have plenty of tough decisions to make-there's no doubt about that.

But one thing to remember about all this is that not only are all the states experiencing similar problems, so is the national budget.

Last week there was news out of Washington that we can plan on seeing national deficits for the next few years.

So we have plenty of company as we face the reality of a recession in the national economy, made worse by the events of September 11th.

How are we so well-prepared in Minnesota?

First of all, we have 653-million dollars in budget reserve, and a cash flow account of about 350-million.

That money isn't a solution to all our problems, but it helps, and it puts us way ahead of other states when it comes to dealing with a shortfall.

We will put some of it to use, but it will mostly buy us some time until we work out a responsible, permanent restructuring plan that will keep our budget structurally balanced through the budget planning period.

We also were smart enough to leave $235 million dollars on the bottom line in our biennial budget.

And weeks ago, we asked every state agency to start looking for ways to cut or reallocate 5 to 10 percent of their budgets.

We also held the line during a difficult labor situation, and came out with a fair and liveable increase for our employees, with a commitment to stay within our budget.

I will carry that same philosophy into solving this budget problem: We should look first, and I hope only, to the spending side to balance the budget.

When the revenue comes in slower, then the spending has to go out slower. You know that in business, and government needs to understand that too.

All too often government looks first to protect itself and what it decides is important, instead of letting the people decide for themselves.

And I know if we do ask the people, they'll say the government should tighten its belt, just like they have to.

I think we can weather this storm without raising taxes, but I'm not ruling out anything at this point. No one can, if they're being honest with the public.

I have no plans to raise taxes, but when you're an independent governor dealing with the republicans and the democrats, you have to be realistic.

So if no one can agree on how to solve our problems, I will keep an open mind about reducing the sales tax rate while expanding what it covers.

Talking about taxes raises another point: as we look into permanent spending and taxing decisions, now is not the time for the partisan bickering we're used to seeing.

We must come together and work together, or the people of Minnesota are going to be the ones who suffer.

I plan to meet with legislative leaders, tomorrow, in fact, to start the process of working cooperatively on solutions.

We're fortunate that it's still early in the biennium and there's a lot that can be done.

I know it's an election year-but some people are just going to have to remember they still have a job to do this winter, and that job is not working on re-election, it's working to come up with permanent answers to our economic problems.

I hope legislators can take a cue from how you in business do it.

You weren't caught by surprise by what has happened in the economy.

When you saw your orders dropping, you made adjustments.

That's what my administration has been doing, and will continue to do.

And it's important that wherever we tighten our belt, we make sure

we don't drive businesses from our state.

You're not doing anything for economic recovery if your businesses are leaving your state-that's cutting off your nose to spite your face.

We all know that the events of September 11th helped accelerate our economic problems.

But those events also gave us a clear picture of our number one priority, which is homeland security, and this economic forecast isn't going to change that.

We have an excellent plan for strengthening Minnesota's ability to respond to health and safety emergencies. We're going to put that proposal before the Legislature this session, and we are sticking with it, despite the fact that money is tight.

That's because nothing is more important right now to the people of Minnesota.

Our proposal includes expanding background checks, making penalties for terrorist acts tougher, making it easier to freeze assets of terrorists and tightening security on sensitive information.

We're also planning to strengthen the commissioner of health's emergency authority in cases of quarantines, outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

We're looking at reallocations and some outside sources, particularly the federal government, to fund this plan, but we do not plan to raise taxes to do it.

As for solutions to our economic problems, we'll be looking for cities and counties to do their part as well.

Fortunately, there are some local governments who have built up some significant reserves.

Guess what. Now's the time to use those reserves.

The rainy day has come.

We're going to deal with our economic situation like I do everything in my administration: out in the open, and straightforward-no gimmicks.

I'm confident we can do it, and you should be confident too.

Having flexibility because of our reserves helps right now, but as I said, we're going to have to make some tough, permanent decisions for our state's future.

Since I've been governor, I've stressed the need for a structurally balanced budget for not just two years, but for five years.

And in times like these, that will pay off.

We will also continue to stick to the principle, in law, that bonding should have a statewide benefit, not just a regional or local benefit.

I've consistently vetoed funding for projects that didn't benefit the whole state-I expect the Legislature to follow the law as well.

Nobody could have foreseen the effects of the events of September 11th.

The good news, we were prepared economically as well as we possibly could have been.

We left money on the bottom line, and we left money unspent from last year.

As I said, those decisions will buy us time to do what we need to.

Now is when true leadership really counts, and Minnesotans can be confident they have the right people working on solutions-people who will make good decisions for them, and good decisions for their children.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
"Minnesota Prepares" public television special
St. Paul
November 13, 2001

Good evening.

Two months and two days ago the world changed.

And it will be changed forever.

Sixty-three days ago a group of terrorists, in a very dramatic and deadly attack, declared war on the United States of America.

These sixty-three days have been very difficult for our state and nation.

These sixty-three days have been hard on our economy.

These sixty-three days have been hard on our children.

And these sixty-three days have been hard on our way of life.

But we are at war and we must stay united in this unprecedented effort to preserve the freedoms of the greatest democracy in the history of the world.

In sixty-three days Minnesotans have worked hard to prepare not only the defense of our state, but for the effects of the war on our economy.

Tonight I would like to outline some of that work.

- Minutes after the news of the plane hijackings and attacks on New York and Washington D.C, our Law Enforcement and Intelligence Management went to work to evaluate the threat to Minnesota.

- Under the direction of Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver our law enforcement agencies were put on high alert and our emergency operations center was activated immediately.

- The Department of Health, under the direction Of Commissioner Jan Malcolm, immediately put out an electronic message to all local public health agencies around the state, alerting them to watch for possible signs of bioterrorism in their communities. Within one hour, virtually all local agencies had acknowledged receipt of the message. Incredibly, Minnesota's Health Alert Network was activated almost 2 hours faster than even the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention got its first messages out to state health departments around the country.

- Soon after I convened an emergency meeting to direct my commissioners of Public Safety and Health, and General Andreotti of the Minnesota National Guard, to take whatever measures possible to begin a coordinated approach to safeguarding our people and our infrastructure.

What I soon found out is that Minnesota was prepared. Systems were in place to deal with this emergency. Plans had been made and people were implementing those plans.

- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety began sending out periodic updates to local law enforcement, communicating any new information that they had received from the FBI and other federal agencies.

- The Minneapolis Division Joint Terrorism Task Force, a tri-state coordinating team that includes the FBI, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and local law enforcement, was ready to react to any terrorist activity in the tri-state region.

- Soon after the attacks Commissioner Weaver also convened a group of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify issues unique to each region of the state and to coordinate terrorism preparedness.

- The Minnesota National Guard was immediately put on high alert and was ready to react when needed.

- When the President of the United States asked us to supplement security at our airports the Minnesota National Guard was mobilized to airports in the Twin Cities, Rochester and Duluth.

Under a plan developed by the FAA, Operation Noble Eagle is now providing a trained, armed, military security presence at our airport facilities and helping us all feel much more safe when we fly.

And just last week President Bush announced an expansion of our airport security so that when you are flying to see your loved ones for the holidays you will feel extra secure.

In addition, the Minnesota National Guard Duluth-based F-16 fighter jets are maintaining their alert posture and continuing to fly random combat air patrols over major metropolitan areas to insure our skies are safe from external threats.

And finally, the Guard's 55th civil Support Team continues to provide active support across the state by assisting local officials in identifying potential biological and chemical hazards.

With the onset of the Anthrax threat in various parts of the country bioterrorism is high on all our minds.

But the preparedness of our Department of Health should be very comforting to all Minnesotans.

Commissioner Malcolm tells me that Minnesota's Health Alert Network is one of the best in the nation at connecting our Department of Health with every local public health agency in Minnesota's cities and counties.

Our local public health agencies have a superior system to communicate with local clinics, hospitals and other community partners.

And it is comforting to know that the Minnesota Department of Health has one of the most sophisticated public health laboratories in the United States. It is one of a handful of labs that can do the highly specialized tests necessary to detect the presence of most biologic and chemical agents that might be used in a bioterrorist attack.

For those of us that have been through wars in the past this is

certainly a war of a different kind.

Vietnam, Korea, and the Gulf War certainly did not require the protection of our homeland to the extent of this new war.

But Homeland Security and the fight to preserve our lifestyle here in America is a reality.

It is a reality so that every day I am required to work with my staff and my commissioners to deal with what might be the consequences of additional attacks on America.

But we are prepared.

- Recently I called together my fellow constitutional officers to review the continuity of government and to be sure that we are all aware of our responsibility to carry out the executive, legislative, and judicial processes of government under any emergency circumstance.

- The State's Division of Emergency Management and the Health Department are working together as a Terrorism Preparedness Advisory Committee to ensure appropriate response mechanism are working well.

- The Minnesota Domestic Preparedness Program is a coordinated effort to make sure that first responders are properly equipped to respond to incidents of domestic terrorism involving chemical and biological agents, as well as radiological and explosive devices.

- And finally, I have convened an Emergency Preparedness Working Group, led by several state agencies and the Department of Public Safety. This group is working with our private sector partners and the FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center to ensure Minnesota's health, food, water, fuel, power, phone and transportation services would continue to operate in the event of a terrorist attack.

As you can see we have been busy.

And be assured, we will continue to be busy, because your safety is an important responsibility that the State of Minnesota takes very seriously.

While important public policy issues will continue to require our

time and energy, I want to assure you that as a state, our primary focus has got to be on the security of our people.

In addition, I believe that it is important to emphasize the impact the war against terrorism will have on an economy that is already suffering.

As governor, I know that an attack on our way of life can be very discomforting to our families. But add to that the discomfort and pressure an unsettled economy can put on all of us and we have a very large challenge before us.

However, working together with the people, the legislature and my administration, we will soon begin to take concrete measures to deal with projected budget shortfalls.

In early December we will have better understanding of how the economy is going, but trust me, we are going to have to make some adjustments and it won't be easy.

But I am working very closely with my cabinet to make these adjustments and will work with legislative leaders to make sure that whatever we do is in the best interest of the people.

However, keep in mind that while this downturn in the economy will be difficult, it will not be as difficult as it is for most other states. Last year I worked together with the Minnesota legislature to insure that we were prepared for the worst and as a result we have substantial reserves to cushion the blow of reduced revenues.

Finally, keep in mind that we will tackle this challenge with full knowledge and understanding that any decisions we make will not, in any way, interfere with our ability to defend ourselves against terrorism.

When I was preparing this speech I felt it was important for you to know just what we have been doing to help protect and secure our state.

But beyond the important measures I have just gone through, there are things that we can all do to help.

As citizens going about our daily lives we can be alert.

Last week Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Al Garber gave me some very interesting information.

You may not know it but commissioner Garber was an Army

Ranger, served in Vietnam and had a long and distinguished career as an FBI agent.

He said that he believed an alert citizenry would provide the best intelligence for our Governmental agencies to act on.

He said that it is true that generally crimes are solved, not through some sophisticated type of science, but rather through someone telling a law enforcement agency who did it.

I pass this information on to you in the spirit of unity. We are all in this together and we all need to work together and do our part.

Be alert and be careful. But be free. Exercise those hard earned rights that our country has long stood for and that our Veterans have long fought for.

Finally, let me finish with a thought that I got from another of my commissioners.

Jeff Olson is the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Last week Jeff sent me a note with this advice to send along to the people of Minnesota:

Help our children and our grandchildren to understand this difficult time.

Talk to them about our fears, now and during other conflicts, letting the children know that it's okay to be afraid.

Talk to them about our freedom and how in past we have not let anyone take it away from us and we won't let it happen now either.

Tell them not to judge people based on their religion or color of their skin.

Tell them about how our country was founded and how for over two hundred years so many people from so many different countries have come together to live free and pursue their dreams in America.

Teach them tolerance of all people and all walks of life.

And finally, tell them to be confident that their moms and their dads, their Grammas and Grandpas, their teachers, their coaches, their neighborhood police officers, their fire department, their Mayor, the military, the President and everyone around them are working hard to make sure that they are safe.

We live in a great country and a great state.

And working together, we will not fail to preserve our freedoms for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Health Disparities conference
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
October 16, 2001

Thank you, Jan.

It's great to be here today to talk about an issue of great importance to the State of Minnesota.

When it comes to health care, Minnesota has a lot to be proud of.

Minnesota has an outstanding history as a healthy, reform-minded state, a subject I've learned a lot about in the last 2 and a half years.

From the Mayo brothers, to being one of the first states to insure low-income citizens, to leading the way in managed care reform, Minnesota has always been a leader in health care.

It shows in our consistent ranking as one of the healthiest states in the nation.

But, there's one important area where we need drastic improvement.

American Indians, populations of color and foreign-born populations in our state have significantly worse health statistics than other Minnesotans.

Listen to these alarming facts:

- Mortality rates at almost ALL ages and income levels are significantly higher for American Indians, populations of color, and recent immigrants to our state, than for whites.

- Infant mortality rates among African Americans and

American Indians are 2 to 4 times higher than for whites.

- The infant mortality rate for the American Indian population is actually going UP.

- The rate of diabetes for American Indians in Minnesota is 600 percent higher than for whites.

- African American teens in Minnesota have one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country, and Hispanic teen pregnancy rates continue to increase in our state.

As Governor, I want us to acknowledge our problem, get to the root of this situation, and fix it.

My vision for Minnesota is that EVERYONE has a chance to succeed on their own -- to be *self-sufficient*.

And, my vision for Minnesota's health system is that EVERY Minnesotan has an equal opportunity to enjoy good health.

With these gaps that I just outlined, it's easy to see that we're far from that vision today.

But if we're committed to change, and if we can acknowledge where we need improvement, we will be on our way to understanding and addressing the causes of Minnesota's health disparities.

But we can't just talk about it.

If we don't attack this situation at its roots, we can no longer claim to be a health leader. I want to close these health disparities gaps so that Minnesota can continue its place as the nation's leader in health care.

Last Legislative session, **we started the attack**. My health disparities package, focused on getting resources directly to communities where the disparities are occurring, was approved by the Legislature.

I appreciate their partnership on this critical initiative.

The focus on the community makes common sense. Why? Because **government does not have all the answers.**

The closer we get the resources to the communities who are struggling with health disparities, the more success we'll have at

tailoring the solutions to the strengths of the individual communities.

The leadership must be rooted in the community, or it won't work.

Let me tell you why this initiative is so important to me personally:

- Minnesota is increasingly more diverse, another reason why Minnesota is a great place to live. If we don't start addressing these problems now, gaps in health status will only increase.

- Healthy people make healthy communities, where people take pride in who they are, where they work, and where their children play. Healthy, vital, Minnesota communities are essential to Minnesota's overall economic stability.

- Minnesotans have more power over their health status than they think, and we need to get that message out.

We're so focused on treating the disease or problem that we already have, that we forget about the little decisions we make every day.

Each one of us has the power to change our health status through common-sense personal decisions. Kids need to know the benefits of being physically active, parents need to understand how nutrition can prevent diseases, teens need to have reasons to put off having those babies.

The choices that *all* Minnesotans make can mean life or death. This is a culture change that needs to happen in all Minnesota communities. And the messages sent need to be relevant to the unique circumstances in each community.

We still have work to do to eliminate health disparities, and I believe we can and will change the trend we see today.

Just last week, Commissioner Jan Malcolm and I visited Fond du Lac reservation and heard about some of their remarkable progress in addressing diabetes, for example.

The Department of Health is working with the federal government and local communities to find what's working and spread these

best practices.

I understand Surgeon General Satcher is going to be here with you by satellite today. His work on the federal level is key to our success. I am pleased to help him in his efforts in any way that I can.

We need his **best ideas, and YOUR best ideas,** for eliminating racial and health disparities.

A healthy Minnesota depends on it.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Venture Finance conference
Minneapolis
October 4, 2001

Thanks, Dan.

And welcome, participants of the 4th Annual Minnesota Venture Conference.

It's nice to be here again.

I have just returned from a heart-wrenching trip to New York's Ground Zero.

For the past three weeks, Minnesota's hearts and minds have been focused on the victims and families of the September 11th tragedy.

I went to New York to deliver Minnesota's support to our East Coast friends.

I can tell you, these people are **strong.**

They've been through the most horrific human experience imaginable.

But **they did not let the bastards get them down**.

And, obviously, by your presence here today, you haven't let them get us or our economy - down either.

You confirm what I know is true: **As a country founded on capitalist ideals and a free market, we know that we must move on and foster growth in the economy.**

As Minnesota pulled together -- and the nation pulled together -- we showed the world that we as a people remain strong, our economy is resilient, and our citizens will continue to do their part

to drive the economy forward.

You are doing your part by getting on with your important role in driving the economic engine of our nation.

I applaud you for being here today and moving forward.

I, for one, am confident in today's - and tomorrow's - economy.

My trip to New York felt secure. I would not hesitate to take my family on a vacation anywhere in the country today.

My confidence in the preparedness of our state is extremely high. Our law enforcement, national guard and emergency management teams are ready. Our public health system is the best in the nation, and we know what we need to do to keep it that way.

My confidence in my personal investments remains strong, too.

Rest assured, **if a company was a good investment on Sept. 10, it's still a good investment today**. If an idea sounded promising on September 10, it's still promising today.

Think of that when you visit with the entrepreneurs that are here today.

These are the people that have the energy and the ideas that will launch our strong economy into the future.

Don't let the bastards take away your support for our future.

I am also confident in our ability to work through the economic issues of the state budget, too. The leaders of state government are pretty resilient. This year we've been through a near shut-down of state government, a long and grueling special session of the Legislature, and now an employee strike.

Through all of this, I remain dedicated to maintaining the fiscal integrity of our state.

We fought to keep more money on the bottom line last session to prepare for a potential dip in revenues.

We have had a structurally balanced budget that puts us in a good position to make sound policy decisions.

Does this mean budget decisions in the near future will be easy? No. But I am 100 percent confident that we have put our state in a

good position to thrive, through any adversity.

Let me share with you an example of how we've worked to bring Minnesota's economy into the future:

Last session, I proposed, and the Legislature adopted, a proposal to create a public-private partnership to help spawn more new biomedical companies in Minnesota. Our creation is called BICI, and it stands for the **Biomedical Innovation and Commercialization Initiative**.

BICI will not be part of government, but will be run by you, the private sector, with close contact inside the state's biomedical research institutions, namely the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic.

The $10 million we put in will be matched by $30 million more from the private sector. It's a true public-private partnership.

I am excited about this venture because I believe that there is a lot of remarkable research that goes on at our institutions. A great deal of those discoveries end up on a shelf instead of becoming an attractive business opportunity.

BICI will help turn those ideas and discoveries into something that YOU will want to invest in.

BICI was a good idea last session, it was a good idea on September 10th, and it's still a good idea today.

While you're here, please take a closer look at the information we've provided about this initiative.

Let me leave you today with this thought:

If there's one thing we've learned since September 11th, it's that we're in this together.

For those of you who feel helpless because of what happened, DON'T.

Continue to have confidence in tomorrow's economy. Continue to take your family on that fall vacation. Continue to invest in smart ideas of the future.

I will continue to lead by making sound budget decisions, making sure we are prepared, logistically and financially, for whatever comes our way, and by spreading confidence to the consumers and

investors of our state.

You, the entrepreneurs and venture capitalists, must do your part to come up with the courageous ideas, think of ways to innovate, and energize these ideas into promising business ventures.

I don't intend to let the bastards get Minnesota down, and you shouldn't either.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Revenue Estimation and Tax Research conference
Bloomington, Minnesota
September 24, 2001

Good afternoon.

I don't think I've ever seen so many economists and tax policy analysts gathered in the same room before. I hope you'll all take this opportunity to put your heads together and figure out where the economy and state revenues are going--and then don't forget to tell the rest of us, because we're all wondering!

I do want to talk with you about some tax policy issues today, but first we can't ignore what's going in our nation and world.

Despite the events of the past two weeks and those yet to come, we know that taxes (and the spending they pay for) will remain important issues for citizens across our nation.

I got involved in politics because I believe people need to get more involved in government and make sure it serves them, rather than the other way around.

And the best way I know to let the people take back control over the decisions that affect them is to make things clear and simple and understandable.

And what government decisions affect more people, more directly, than spending and taxes? And what is more complicated and difficult to understand--even for a room full of experts like you--than our tax system?

Here in Minnesota, we've pursued tax reforms to make our state and local taxes simpler and more understandable, and to give the average taxpayer a fighting chance to control spending and the taxes that feed it.

In our state, like all yours I'm sure, we have tax laws that simply defy logic. Here are a couple of examples we've faced here in Minnesota:

Our property tax system has been one of the most complicated anywhere. While we said it was a "local tax," we were raising $900 million dollars every year through an off-budget, state-mandated property tax levy to help fund the state's basic per-pupil education funding formula. No local taxpayer had any say or control over that tax.

Add to that complicated systems of property classification and local government aids, and the taxpayer's simple question, "Why did my taxes go up?" would be answered only with finger-pointing all around.

Another prime example of tax laws that defy common sense is our sales tax. Here in Minnesota, we tax tree removal, but not tree planting. We tax haircuts for dogs, but not haircuts for people (unless you're like me and buy a Norelco to do your hair). We tax the boarding of a dog, but not the boarding of a horse. Obviously, dogs need better lobbyists at the capitol.

Our sales tax has also failed to keep up with changes in the economy. Services have grown to make up 60 percent of total consumption. At the same time, catalog and internet sales by out-of-state businesses are increasing.

Despite all this, the sales tax has barely changed at all. It's become badly out of step with the modern economy. As a result, it is becoming increasingly uneven and unfair. Why do some consumption choices get taxed, and others not?

To me, all this showed the need for an overhaul of the tax system here in Minnesota, and so in the 2001 legislative session I proposed comprehensive tax reform. It included:

- property tax reform and relief through full state funding of the state K12 education formula without requiring a local property tax;
- income tax cuts;
- and expansion of the sales tax to include most services, along with a half-cent reduction in the rate;

My budget this year combined tax reform with overall tax relief.

We were able to give tax relief by holding the growth in overall

state spending to the lowest level in several years.

After all, there's only two things any government can do with a dollar: take it from a taxpayer and spend it, or don't spend it and leave it in the taxpayer's pocket. I always prefer the second choice.

And while the legislature in the end did not adopt my recommendations to reform the sales tax and cut the income tax, we did join with many other states to enact the Streamlined Sales Tax legislation. It's important that states work together--and Congress lets us--to begin to solve the internet sales problem.

Why were we successful in enacting tax reform this year in Minnesota, when it had failed so many times before? Here's the "recipe" we used:

Start with what should be the obvious one: Talk to the people and find out what they want. We did, through everything from a Citizens' Jury to town hall meetings across the state to telephone surveys.

For example, the Department of Revenue commissioned a statewide survey to get an idea of Minnesotans' perceptions of their tax system. Guess which tax they consider the fairest, the most understandable and the most predictable?

The sales tax.

I've been saying that all along: the sales tax is the fairest tax, and a lot of Minnesotans agree.

Now, guess which tax they think is unfair, arbitrary and not based on ability to pay? That's right, the property tax.

The survey asked them what tax they would reduce if they could choose one. Property tax was far and away the popular choice.

I have always maintained that the property tax is unfair, and the sales tax is fair; this year's reform plan was consistent with what the people told us.

The next thing you have to do is take a look at your economy and how it is changing--and is your tax system keeping up? We looked at ours and found it was way behind the curve as far as the growing service economy is concerned--and so we created a plan to modernize the sales tax.

After that, the next step is to do your homework: know what the

tax and revenue effects of each piece of your reform plan will be, and how the whole package will fit together for taxpayers' bottom line. That's the place where people like you come in, and here in Minnesota the Tax Research staff at Revenue did an excellent job of working, and reworking, the numbers again and again as the legislature kept throwing us curve balls right until the end of June. Thank you, Dick Gebhart and your staff.

The last piece of the recipe for successful tax reform is simply to stick to your principles and don't back down. There are always many in the political process who resist any changes, even when it's clear that the people want them, the policy is sound, and all the homework's been done. At that point, getting tax reform over the top simply becomes the job of executive leadership: insisting that the public's interest be served instead of this or that narrow special interest. I took care of that one.

But now we have tax reform in place here in Minnesota. We--with the help of the legislature--have significantly reformed the state and local finance system and offered a chance for permanent double-digit property tax relief beginning next year.

Now we have to make sure that all our hard work for the people of Minnesota is not un-done.

How could it be undone? Through millions of dollars of new spending and property tax levy increases now being pitched by cities, counties, and school districts across the state. If local governments and schools turn around and raise their own spending and taxes even faster than usual, then the people risk being put right back where they started.

Last week, cities and counties had to set their proposed property tax levies for next year. While all the numbers are not in yet, it appears that in some places local officials decided to go for the absolute biggest levy increase they're allowed under the law, so they'll have the money "just in case they need it."

Isn't that putting the cart before the horse? Whatever happened to setting a budget based on what you'll need to get the job done next year, and then collecting just enough taxes and other revenue to cover it?

And so now it's time for the people to step up to the plate to protect their investment and keep this year's tax relief from being chipped away.

And here's where another part of my philosophy comes into play: personal responsibility.

We've done our part. The State has provided major tax relief and reform.

Now it's the citizens' turn:

Right now, cities, counties, and school districts are making the spending and taxing plans that will affect property tax bills next spring.

The proposed property tax levies just adopted will be finalized over the next couple of months--and they won't come down unless citizens demand it.

Local taxpayers need to hold their locally elected officials accountable and get involved now in the decisions that affect them.

How can they get involved?

Show up at budget meetings of city councils, county boards, and school boards.

Ask questions: How much is spending going up? And will government deliver more and better services if they get more of your tax dollars?

And if there is a need for more spending, does it have to come from property taxes next year? Ask about your city's reserve funds. All told, cities in Minnesota are holding nearly a billion dollars in unreserved fund balances, according to the State Auditor.

And citizens can vote about their local taxes this fall.

A new report indicates that over half the state's school districts have decided to ask their voters for additional operating referendum authority this fall. If all of them pass, that will mean $176 million in additional property tax levies next year--eating into the relief that we passed this spring.

Taxpayers need to get educated and get involved in the referendum debate in their school district this fall. Ask how they've used their current budget and what kind of results their getting from it. Ask how they plan to use new tax dollars for more spending and how student results will improve.

If you're satisfied with the answers you get and you're willing to give back some of your state-paid property tax relief for more local spending, then you should vote "yes." If you're not, vote "no".

Either way, you're in charge. That's local accountability, and that's personal responsibility.

The major reform has happened.

There is a new system in place -- one in which the property tax is now simpler, lower, and more truly a local tax.

But to get the benefit of those changes, the public has to start making their voices heard on the local level. And that has to happen now.

If taxpayers become government watchdogs at all levels and keep an eye on their own money, the revolution we started this year will work just the way it's supposed to.

And that's what the people want.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Duluth Rotary
Radisson Hotel, Duluth
September 20, 2001

Good Afternoon.

I know that I have had a long-standing invitation to speak to your Rotary Club so I am happy to finally be here.

However, I do wish that I were standing before you under different circumstances.

Originally it was planned that this speech would come at the end of a three-day tour of the North Shore. I would have had visited with many people from Grand Marais, to Two Harbors, to Silver Bay and Duluth.

But things changed.

Things changed so that somehow it just doesn't feel appropriate to stand up here and talk about how proud we are of tax reform and tax relief.

On Tuesday, September 11 things changed dramatically.

Things changed in so many devastating ways that the people of this country, this state and this city may never be the same.

The attack on America last Tuesday may be the single most mood-altering event in the lifetime of most Americans.

On September 10th we were a country confident that a little downturn in our economy would easily be overcome.

On September 10th we were a state that was making plans to meet the challenges of a changing economy and a changing workforce.

On September 10th we were a people full of hope, secure in our

freedom, fun loving and free to move about the world with ease.

On September 11th in the span of less than one hour, our sense of freedom took a crushing blow.

But while the crushing blow hurt us deeply, it did not knock us out and will not tear us apart.

Last Sunday at the State Capitol in St. Paul, thirty-five thousand Minnesotans came together to pay tribute to our fallen heroes.

Thirty-five thousand Minnesotans lifted up our spirits and resolved to overcome the tragedy of September 11.

Thirty-five thousand Minnesotans, who clearly were speaking for all of Minnesota and all of America, said, we will stand united.

You can be sure that it will take all the unity, all the courage and all the faith we can muster to conquer the enemy that perpetrated this act of terrorism.

But be assured that together, we will conquer this enemy and we will restore our sense of freedom.

But it may take time.

Americans may have to be patient.

As the President said we are at war, but this is a different kind of war than we are used to.

In the meantime, President Bush has asked us go back to work.

He has asked us to try as hard as we can to live our lives as normally as possible.

Mayor Giuliani of New York has said that the best thing people could do for them is to come to New York and eat in their restaurants and go to Broadway plays.

For some that could be hard to do.

But while I have curtailed some of my planned activities, I decided to go to Lutsen yesterday, and Duluth today, because at some point I have to get back to concentrating on what is important to Minnesotans.

Many experts believe that the terrorist attack on America will have

a huge impact on travel and tourism. And that could be devastating to a region like Northeastern Minnesota and the Mall of America.

Therefore, I believe that I must do what I can to mitigate the impact.

This tragedy has changed people's perceptions about many things, so if I can help people through this difficult time I certainly will.

It is early yet but be assured that we will be watching the impact this event may have on our overall economy.

Yesterday I spoke with the President of Northwest Airlines about the effect the terrorist attack will have on the airline industry in general and Northwest specifically.

Northwest is in a stronger position that many airlines but no airline is going to be able to take huge losses forever.

But I would urge everyone not to jump to conclusions on how this problem should be solved.

Of course the state should closely watch the situation and there is nothing wrong with exploring options.

But clearly, the economic impact on airlines is a nationwide problem that should first and foremost be addressed by Congress and the White House.

In addition, there will be other negative impacts that we may not have thought of yet.

However, whatever comes we must be prepared to move forward and meet these challenges with complete confidence.

It is at times like this when I am most proud of the American people.

It is at times like this that I am most proud of our law enforcement officers, our firefighters and our emergency response workers.

This is a time that I am most proud of our military, both active and reserve.

This is a time when I am most proud to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Minnesota National Guard.

And finally, this is a time when we must trust all of the above to

work together.

We must trust our President and we must support our armed forces as they are called to battle.

As I said on Sunday, we must have hope and we must be determined that together,

United in family,

Strengthened by love,

Driven by opportunity, but

Tempered by respect for all humanity,

We will overcome this tragic moment.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Capitol Memorial Service
State Capitol
September 16, 2001



Thank you Reatha for those very kind words of introduction.

Mr. Vice President.

Former Governors,

Senator Wellstone,

Honorable Members of Congress,

Minnesota Constitutional Officers,

Speaker Sviggum,

Senator Wiener,

Members of the legislature,

Honorable Mayors Coleman, Sayles Belton and Demuth,

Commissioner Delany,

Distinguished members of the Clergy,

Active, Reserve and Veteran Military representatives,

Law Enforcement officials,

Fire Fighters,

Emergency Response workers,

Family, Friends, and all Minnesotans,

From the bottom of my heart,

And on behalf of the First Lady,

On behalf of Lt. Governor Mae Schunk,

And on behalf all of those who represent Minnesotans, and work for Minnesotans, in State Government:

I offer our support and condolences to the families who lost loved ones as a result of the devastating attack on Tuesday.

Today, I would like to start on a very personal note.

Of all the things I have,

And of all the things I do,

Nothing, absolutely nothing, is more important, or dearer to me, than my family.

And as a family we have been blessed.

We are a family born and raised in a country that is the greatest land of opportunity in the history of the world.

We are a family that is a part of a larger family:

A family of all men, women and children.

A family of Native Americans,

A family of African Americans,

A family of Asian Americans,

A family of Hispanic Americans,

A family of Japanese Americans,

A family of European Americans, and on, and on, and on.

A family of Americans so diverse, so free, and so good.

A family of Americans, united by States,

Founded in democracy,

Molded with faith,

Steeped in courage,

And full of compassion.

A family so strong that no matter what the forces of evil bring we will not breakdown.

I stand here today, humbled, but comforted, by your presence.

That's what family is for, to share with each other, the hurt, the sorrow and the sadness that have fallen upon our country.

While this gathering of Minnesota families is a comfort to what has happened, let it also be a sign of hope.

Hope and determination, that together;

United in family,

Strengthened by love,

Driven by opportunity, and

Tempered by respect for all humanity,

We will overcome this tragic moment.

We must, and we will, move forward.

We will move forward in fairness.

We will live together with tolerance.

We will extend our hands to the people of the world in solidarity and unity.

We will pit honor against dishonor.

We will promote good against evil.

And finally,

We will, together, restore our sense of freedom by conquering this enemy.

We will do all of this.

And we will not fail.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
News Conference remarks after terrorist attack
State Capitol
September 11, 2001

The tragic events of this day are staggering to the sense of security, peace and calm that we in Minnesota and the United States are used to in our daily lives.

This is a time of great shock, great sorrow and great concern.

But this is a time when we must be confident that we can meet the very difficult challenges put forth by these senseless and tragic acts.

I want to assure the people of Minnesota that we are in continuous contact with the FBI and the Secret Service, and that I have instructed Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver to activate the State of Minnesota Emergency Operations Center.

Public Buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul have been alerted and many of them secured.

Further, I am advising schools to keep students in school, but to take measures to make their buildings as secure as possible.

Our best advice to government employees and is that unless you are directed by your supervisor to evacuate your place of work, please remain on the job at your place of work.

This is truly a time of extraordinary apprehension. But I would ask that people remain calm but alert.

If and when we have any further information we will immediately notify the news media.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
New Ulm Chamber of Commerce
New Ulm, Minnesota
September 7, 2001

Good evening.

How was *your* day?
Mine was pretty busy.

Let's see, I started in Appleton, spent some time there, then I went to Montevideo and checked out their downtown.

After that it was on to Granite Falls to tour CREP sites. As many of you know, CREP stands for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

I'll talk more about that in just a minute. First I have to finish telling you my itinerary today.

While I was in the Granite Falls area, I toured four of those sites and met some great people who farm them.

After I met *great* people, I met the media.

Actually, after such a long day, I was almost glad to see them. Almost.

Anyway, after talking with them on the banks of the Minnesota River, I headed here.

And after a schedule like that, I am *really* glad to be here.

This is my first big road trip since we passed historic tax reform and tax relief, and one thing I'm finding is that people really appreciate what we did.

They love the idea of saving 23 percent on their farm and homestead property taxes, and 11 percent on commercial/industrial

property.

But what I'm really hearing a lot of is, thanks for making government more accountable when it comes to getting the most out of every tax dollar.

Since I took office, that accountability has tied into my main philosophy: it's the people's money.

And because of that, from the time I took office to the end of fiscal year 2003, Minnesota taxpayers will have saved:

- $3.2 billion dollars off their income taxes
- $803 million dollars off their property taxes
- $487 million dollars off their motor vehicle license fees, and
- $58 million dollars off other miscellaneous taxes

That's a total of $4-point-48 billion dollars off Minnesotans' total tax bill, plus-sales tax rebates totaling $2-point-73 billion dollars.

That's how the taxpayer has benefited.

My administration has also been very, very good to our education system, despite what you may have heard.

If government has to be efficient with every tax dollar it gets, so should schools, and that was my challenge to our state's public education systems.

By 2003 our K-12 public schools will get more than eight billion of your tax dollars every two years. That's an increase of more than 20 percent for every public school student since I took office.

I mentioned the 11 percent reduction in commercial and industrial property taxes. Before that, we had some of the highest rates in the nation in that category.

That's just part of what we've done to help Minnesota businesses thrive.

Our trade missions have knocked down barriers and opened up countless new opportunities for our state's businesses.

I've been to Japan, Mexico and Canada since I took office, and

we're heading to China in November.

Think it helps Minnesota businesses when their governor goes overseas and gets the world's attention? Believe me, it does.

And when we talk about business, we have to remember the family business that keeps this state running: the farm.

I talked about the 23 percent reduction in farm homestead property tax. There are other ways we've helped the agriculture industry, and that's through partnerships.

As governor, there's not much I can do about the price of corn. That's the federal government.

And don't get me started on milk prices.

But we can work with the federal government to help lower the overall cost of doing business.

We can do that through conservation programs like CREP, which benefit everyone.

CREP came out of the Conservation Reserve Program in the 1996 Farm Bill and more than a dozen states are now taking part.

Minnesota's CREP was one of the first in the country and it's considered one of the best when it comes to getting marginal cropland out of production and removing it from taxpayer liability.

So now that my administration has done all this good work to help taxpayers, guess whose turn it is now?

That's right. It's yours.

Over the next few weeks, there are going to be dozens of referendums around the state having to do with your tax dollars and the tax relief that we've put into place.

Make sure you're completely informed on what your local government wants to do with your money.

Hold those local officials accountable and get involved in the decisions that are going to affect you.

If you're happy with what you see, vote "Yes."

If you're not, vote "No." Make sure they can tell you what your

tax money is buying, and what will change for the better if they want more of it.

If you want your property taxes to be under control, take control now.

We have made sweeping changes designed to take a big chunk out of everyone's tax bill.

But if the local governments and schools turn around and want to collect more taxes to cover local issues, the people are back where they started.

And they would only have themselves to blame.

If taxpayers become government watchdogs at all levels and keep an eye on their own money, the revolution we started this year will work just the way it's supposed to.

My administration has done a lot of great things for the people of Minnesota, but it's the people who truly have the last word.

I hope you make the most of it.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Midwest States Association of Tax Administrators
Bloomington, Minnesota
August 20, 2001

Good morning.

It's good to be with a group of tax administrators this morning.

That may sound strange, but in fact it was tax issues (and the spending it pays for) that first got me involved in politics, beginning at the local level where I served as a mayor. So, in a sense, I guess I owe my political career to people like you.

I got involved in politics because I believe people need to get more involved in government and make sure it serves them, rather than the other way around.

And the best way I know to let the people take back control over the decisions that affect them is to make things clear and simple and understandable.

And what government decisions affect more people, more directly, than spending and taxes? And what is more complicated and difficult to understand, even for a roomfull of experts like you, than our tax system?

Here in Minnesota, we've pursued tax reforms to make our state and local taxes simpler and more understandable, and to give the average taxpayer a fighting chance to control spending and the taxes that feed it.

In our state, like all of yours I'm sure, we have tax laws that simply defy logic. Here are a couple of examples we've faced here in Minnesota:

Our property tax has been one of the most complicated anywhere.

While we said it was a "local tax," we were raising $900 million dollars every year through an off-budget, state-mandated property tax levy to help fund the state's basic per-pupil education funding formula. No local taxpayer had any say or control over that tax.

Add to that complicated systems of property classification and local government aids, and the taxpayer's simple question, "Why did my taxes go up?" would be answered only with finger pointing all around.

Another prime example of tax laws that defy common sense is our sales tax. Here in Minnesota, we tax tree removal, but not tree planting. We tax haircuts for dogs, but not haircuts for people (unless you're like me and buy a Norelco to do your hair). We tax the boarding of a dog, but not the boarding of a horse. Obviously, dogs need better lobbyists at the capital.

Our sales tax has also failed to keep up with changes in the economy. Services have grown to make up 60 percent of total consumption. At the same time, catalog and internet sales by out-of-state businesses are increasing.

Despite all this, the sales tax has barely changed at all. It's become badly out of step with the modern economy. As a result, it is becoming increasingly uneven and unfair. Why do some consumption choices get taxed, and others not?

To me, all of this showed the need for an overhaul of the tax system here in Minnesota, and so in the 2001 legislative session I proposed comprehensive tax reform. It included:

--property tax reform and relief through full state funding of the state K12 education formula without requiring a local property tax ;

--income tax cuts;

--and expansion of the sales tax to include most services, along with a half-cent reduction in the rate;

My budget this year combined tax reform with overall tax relief.

We were able to give tax relief by holding the growth in overall state spending to the lowest level in several years.

After all, there's only two things any government can do with a dollar: take it from a taxpayer and spend it, or don't spend it and leave it in the taxpayer's pocket. I always prefer that second

choice.

This year we enacted the most comprehensive tax reform in thirty years, including full state funding of basic education costs that promises over $900 million dollars a year in property tax relief, beginning next year.

And while the Legislature in the end did not adopt my recommendations to reform the sales tax and cut the income tax, we did join with many other states to enact the Streamlined Sales Tax legislation. It's important that states work together, and Congress lets us, to begin to solve the internet sales problem.

But the tax reforms we enacted in 2001 are now history. What's happening today here in Minnesota?

I'm going to start by revealing some new information. Officially it's new, but it's certainly not a surprise to those of us who have worked for tax reform.

This past spring, the Department of Revenue commissioned a statewide survey to get an idea of Minnesotans' perceptions of their tax system.

Guess which tax they consider the fairest, the most understandable and the most predictable?

The sales tax.

I've been saying that all along: the sales tax is the fairest tax. It looks like a lot of Minnesotans agree.

Now. Guess which tax they think is unfair, arbitrary and not based on ability to pay?

That's right, the property tax.

The survey asked them what tax they would reduce if they could choose one. Property tax was far and away the popular choice.

The Revenue Department will release all the survey results in a couple of days, but you get the idea: Minnesotans have been looking for just the type of reform we now have.

I have always maintained that the property tax is unfair, and the sales tax is fair; this year's reform plan was consistent with that philosophy.

My administration, with help from the Legislature, I have to give them credit, accomplished what many administrations before have failed to do: We have significantly reformed the state and local finance system and offered a chance for permanent double-digit property tax relief.

Now, we must make sure all our hard work for the people of Minnesota is not un-done.

How could it be undone? Through the millions of dollars of new spending and property tax levy increases now being pitched by cities, counties, and school districts across the state.

And so now it's time for the people to step up to the plate to protect their investment and keep this year's tax relief from being chipped away.

I just mentioned how our reform is consistent with my overall philosophy.

Now there's another part of my philosophy that comes into play: personal responsibility.

We've done our part. The State has provided major tax relief and reform.

Now it's the citizens' turn:

Right now, cities, counties, and school districts are making the spending and taxing plans that will affect property tax bills next spring. Local taxpayers need to hold their locally elected officials accountable and get involved now in the decisions that are going to affect them.

It's their personal responsibility.

I say to taxpayers: "Go to budget meetings of city councils, county boards and school boards. Ask questions. Make sure they can tell you what your tax money is buying, and what will change for the better if they want more of it. If you want your property taxes to be under control, take control now."

Active, engaged citizens are a major part of my Big Plan, and this is a great opportunity for the citizens to do more than just vote.

And, of course, voting is going to be a big part of it, especially if school districts ask voters to approve new excess levies this fall.

And if a city that's sitting on a huge reserve wants to raise taxes, the people need to know exactly what the situation is.

We have made sweeping changes designed to take a big chunk out of everyone's tax bill.

But if the local governments and schools turn around and want to collect more taxes to cover local issues, the people are back where they started.

And they would only have themselves to blame.

The major reform has happened.

There is a new system in place, one in which the property tax is now simpler, lower, and more truly a local tax.

But to get the benefit of those changes, the public has to make their voices heard on the local level. And that has to start now.

If taxpayers become government watchdogs at all levels and keep an eye on their own money, the revolution we started this year will work just the way it's supposed to.

And that's what the people want.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Sales tax rebate news conference
St. Paul, Minnesota
August 20, 2001



Welcome everyone. This is one of my favorite parts of the job. That day in late summer when I get to stand here and say: The checks are in the mail.

The 2001 Minnesota Sales Tax Rebate checks began hitting the mail over the weekend. If you don't get your check today, don't worry. If you're eligible, you'll get one soon.

I'm happy to report that this year's rebate amounts are larger than last year for almost all taxpayers.

The 2001 Minnesota Sales Tax Rebate gives more than $791 million dollars back to taxpayers.

By Labor Day, all eligible Minnesotans should have their Sales Tax Rebates.

Not only will Minnesotans enjoy a rebate this summer, we'll see a reduction in property taxes next year. It's more of *your* money in *your* pocket.

Once again, the rebate serves as a great example of how all levels of government can interact with the private sector and produce something great. Thank you to the Revenue and Finance departments, and the Treasurers' Office who worked so well to bring in the private sector and the U.S. Postal Service to get this project done well and done on time.

This rebate was made possible because of tough choices that were

made in the 2001 legislative session to limit growth in state spending to allow taxpayers to keep more of their own money.

The same principle applies to the historic property tax relief and reform enacted earlier this summer: As I told a group of tax administrators from around the Midwest earlier this morning, we've made the property tax simpler, lower, and more local and accountable.

We've created major property tax relief, but in order to keep that from being chipped away, taxpayers need to get involved NOW in the budget and tax decisions that are being made for next year by local governments.

Go to county, city and school district budget meetings, ask questions, and make sure they can tell you what your tax money is buying, and exactly how things will improve if they want more of it. If you want your property taxes to be under control, take control.

Now I'll ask Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith to give you some more details on the rebate.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Rural Summit
Duluth Entertainment & Convention Center
July 25, 2001

Thank you, Mayor Doty.

It's a pleasure to be back in your beautiful city. Duluth is truly a treasure in all seasons. But in summer it's really unique.

For all of you who have traveled to Duluth from elsewhere in Minnesota-from other parts of the country or from other nations-I hope you have packed accordingly.

Because it's been very hot in Minnesota.

In fact, on a particular day last week a radio weather announcer said that at noon it was 92 degrees in downtown St. Paul, 95 degrees in Worthington, 96 degrees in Morehead, 92 in Rochester and 90 degrees in International Falls.

In Duluth, on the shores of Lake Superior, it was 57 and the sweatshirt vendors were making a killing.

As I said Duluth is a unique city. Unique because you just never know what kind of weather is going to greet you. So I hope you packed a sweatshirt.

Let me start by thanking each and every one of you in the audience for your participation at this year's International Rural Summit.

You're here because you care about the future of your rural community. You are here to learn from others and to take action. For that, you should be commended. We need more rural leaders like you-willing to step up to the plate and improve the future of rural communities.

Two years ago, I spoke at your gathering here in Duluth, and I told

you about some of my frustrations about the usual government response to rural issues.

I talked about the need to diversify the economies of communities and reduce our dependence on agricultural subsidies. I didn't think that government should be the first place to turn when times are tough.

I was honest and straightforward.

Since that time, I have learned even more about the challenges facing rural communities. I have traveled to all corners of Minnesota and witnessed communities overcoming adversity:

I have seen mass lay-offs in mining towns on the Iron Range.

I have spoken with dairy farmers struggling to stay in business.

I have witnessed cities like Granite Falls recovering from natural disasters.

I've learned a great deal from these experiences.

I learned that the government involvement is no match for market forces and natural disasters.

That's right. We're not in charge.

The forces of change are so great that no amount of money will hold off the inevitable. Markets change, tornados blow away our hopes and floods wash away our dreams.

But while it is difficult to control these forces we can adapt to the changes they bring and indeed we have.

As Governor, I want ALL of Minnesota to reap the benefits of today's booming economy and we've made progress toward that goal.

As many of you know, my Cabinet has worked to involve Minnesota's regional leaders in helping us better understand what your priorities are in each region of the state. We know that every region of the state has its own unique challenges, and we know that there are ways the state can better serve your region.

In fact, in a few minutes, Commissioner Yanisch from the Department of Trade and Economic Development is going to share with you some of the progress we've made on these regional

priorities since last year.

But let me mention some of the highlights:

Many of you know that this legislative session was in one sense very difficult and in another very "special."

I'm still in a recovery mode

But I'm very happy to tell you that I believe we accomplished a lot for rural Minnesota.

First, we accomplished a major overhaul of our outdated tax system. And in spite of the skeptics rural Minnesota will see benefits.

- If you own a home, you will see a 23% reduction in your property taxes.
- If you own a farm, you will see a 25% reduction in property taxes. In total we will give $63 million in relief to Minnesota farmers-and that relief is not just for one year-that relief will go on year after year.

  While we may not be able to do much to effect the price of corn we can lower a farmers cost of doing business by reducing their tax burden.

- The same for small businesses and retail establishments in rural Minnesota. In one of the most hard fought issues of this past session we were able to reduce commercial and industrial property tax by 10%. This is a long overdue reduction for businesses.
- If your community needs housing-And whose doesn't? How does a 25% reduction in property taxes on apartments sound? I happen to believe that lower property tax rates will spur the building of affordable homes and apartment units across rural Minnesota.
- And who can complain about that rebate check that may spur some last minute Labor Day vacations to your rural communities?

Second, we made progress on workforce development, a high priority for many of you.

We proposed, and the Legislature adopted, a major overhaul of the state's workforce development system.

This overhaul will combine two state agencies to better align

workforce development with economic development. The goal is to do a better job of linking available jobs with available workers-an important priority for communities trying to make a comeback.

Rural Minnesota is home to the best workers in the world. I am sure of it. Now, the rest of the world needs to know about it.

We were also able to increase our investment in housing in rural Minnesota, from $111 million dollars to $157 million dollars; and we increased investment in rental housing for low wage working families.

And just as important, we are continuing to move forward on technology and telecommunications.

The Ventura Administration, led by Commissioner David Fisher, is working with the University of Minnesota Extension to reach out to local leaders to help them better understand what advanced telecom and Internet services can do for rural Minnesota.

This "Rural Internet Initiative" will leverage money from the state and the private sector with the expertise of local rural leaders to bring telecom access to all parts of Minnesota.

Hopefully this effort will help reinvigorate the debate about how we serve rural communities with telecommunications.

By the way, we shouldn't let another year go by without reforming our telecommunications laws. I strongly believe that this issue can do more than anything to help rural communities thrive in our fast-changing economy.

I won't let this rest, and I ask you to join me in fighting, once again, for telecommunications reform. We may disagree on how we go about reforming our system, but we'll all agree that we need to work together to get it done. The future of our rural communities is at stake.

And finally, transportation.

Just as I did with telecommunications reform, last year I put my "Moving Minnesota" transportation funding plan on the table and the legislature ignored it.

Of course now most legislators are crying for a transportation funding solution.

But even if the legislature is a little slow I promise you I understand

how important roads and bridges are to rural Minnesota and I will not give up on my goal to provide a long-term stable funding source for transportation.

While we have accomplished a lot, there is a lot of work to be done yet.

However, we must stay focused, we must work hard and we must not be afraid of the forces of change.

I believe that if we focus:

- On long range plans to limit urban sprawl and the encroachment of big cities into the countryside;
- On adequate roads and transit options;
- On high speed internet availability and;
- On a fair and simple tax structure;

We will-with the work ethic of our rural population-witness a flourish of rural development that will bring stability to our changing rural economy.

And finally, I would like to leave you with this:

More than once during the legislative session I read in newspapers across Minnesota quotes from certain legislators saying, "Jesse Ventura doesn't care about rural Minnesota."

I am the Governor of all of Minnesota.

Whether you are from Minneapolis or Mountain Iron we are all in this together.

And together we will not fail.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Toronto Board of Trade
Toronto, Ontario
July 12, 2001

Thank you.

It's an honor to address the real movers and shakers behind Toronto's extraordinary success as a global competitor. As the Governor of Minnesota, I can tell you that *your* goals are *my* goals.

Toronto is truly the "world within a city."

- More than half your population is foreign-born - making this one of the world's most multi-cultural cities.
- Toronto is *connected,* with one of the best telecommunications networks in the world.
- You are Canada's gateway to international markets.
- And home to 90 percent of Canada's foreign banks.

I've always said: Go where the money is. And here I am!

Thanks to your efforts, and the efforts of people like you, Canada and the United States enjoy the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world. More than a billion dollars in merchandise trade crosses our borders *every day.*

Even more important, at least to me, is that Canada is Minnesota's largest trading partner. *By far.*

- *Minnesota sold 2.4 billion in manufactured exports to*

Canada last year. That's more than we sold to our next three largest trading partners combined.

It's no wonder we do so much business together. For one thing, we share the longest unguarded border in the world,and there is a reason for that.

We share the same values, the same principles and ideals, and a long, rich history of friendship and cooperation.

We have nothing to fear, and everything to gain from each other.

It is a relationship we dare not and do not take for granted.

This is my second trade mission to Canada. Last year, we went to Saskatoon and accomplished a lot in a very short time. But this is Canada, and one visit just isn't enough. Our partnership is too important. The opportunities: boundless.

I'm pleased to know that Canada shares our commitment, and proved it by establishing a full-time consulate in Minneapolis more than 30 years ago. Consul General Susan Thompson, who is with us on our mission, has worked hard on behalf of our partnership, and is a good friend of Minnesota.

Thanks to Susan, I recently became the first Governor of Minnesota to visit your consulate. It was an honor and a privilege, not to mention long overdue.

She even let me hold an Aboriginal talking stick during our news conference, which meant the Minnesota media jackals couldn't interrupt me.

It was a very pleasant experience.

I'm told the talking stick is an ancient tool used to bring people together, by making them actually listen to each other.

I could have used that talking stick during the last legislative session.

But Minnesota and Canada have been listening to each other for years, and today, we're reaping the benefits of a dynamic relationship.

Consul General Thompson was recently quoted as saying: "We are neighbors by geography and partners by design," and I

couldn't agree more.

Our partnership succeeds because we work at it.

And I'm happy to say Minnesota's relationship with Ontario in trade, tourism and foreign investment, is flourishing.

In fact, Ontario is our best Canadian customer, buying more Minnesota's goods and services than any other province.

Last year, Minnesota exports to Ontario were valued at $1.6 billion, that's more than we sold to the entire country of Japan, our second largest trading partner!

"Silicon Valley North," as this tech-smart city is known, made good use of Minnesota's high-tech products. Digital processing units, printed circuits and data processing components all ranked among our top ten exports.

Turn all this around, and Minnesota bought just as much from Ontario: $1.6 billion. Which only proves we're a great match for each other!

The traffic across our border is just as heavy in the tourism trade.

Once again, Ontario is number one, sending us more visitors than any other province. Nearly half a million Canadians visit Minnesota every year, making Minnesota the 10th most popular U.S. destination for Canadian travelers.

That's one reason I'm here. I'm trying to see if we might kick that into the single digits. After all, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport serves more Canadian cities than any other U.S. airport. And Minnesota has everything to make you feel right at home: wonderful golf courses, lakes, live entertainment, cultural events and shopping.

Can you see why they call me "Jesse the Tourism Governor?"

I might add that we've also got one of the hottest baseball teams of the season. We all like to watch the Twins play the Blue Jays at Skydome. But you really ought to see their home games!

And that will become very easy to do this fall. Northwest Airlines just announced free stopovers in Minnesota on flights to the U.S. from Canada. So, we're looking forward to seeing even more of

our Canadian friends this fall.

No doubt about it, much of the good will generated between Minnesota and Canada comes from the people we get to know and the companies we share.

And Minnesota and Ontario share a lot of companies.

Our businesses employ thousands of people, help create healthy, vital communities, and fuel local economies on both sides of the border.

Some of them even save lives.

- *Companies like 3M and Medtronic have helped make Minnesota a global center for life-saving medical devices, and they're doing the same for Canada. Last year, Medtronic announced it was expanding its Canadian operation in order to get its pacemakers and other products to more patients in Ontario.*

- *Minnesota companies do more than just set up shop in Canada. They get involved. General Mills not only makes Canada's favorite cereal. It is also the official sponsor of the Canadian Olympic Association and "Team Cheerios" and the company ranks among Canada's top five contributors to the nation's food banks.*

And the investment goes both ways.

Communities throughout Minnesota are benefiting from the company of Toronto-based businesses like:

- *The Thomson Corporation*
- *Moore Corporation*
- *Norbord Industries*
- *and Celestica, the world's largest manufacturer of electronics.*

Celestica is expanding even more in Rochester, Minnesota, where it now employs 1800 workers. The company plans to buy IBM's electronic card assembly and test operations, and hire another 700 people.

By working together, in trade, tourism and foreign investment, Minnesota and Ontario are fulfilling a common goal: to be global competitors.

We both know we can't rest on our laurels, no matter how successful we are. We must strive to lead the world by increasing exports, creating better jobs, and building even stronger, more diverse economies.

But we can't do it alone.

That's why our relationships, between governments, businesses and people, are so important. And that's why I'm here today.

Together, we can remove the barriers that cripple our ability to communicate, and compete.

As Governor, I've worked hard to break down those barriers.

- *Last year, I urged Congress to support permanent normal trade relations with China, and the effort was a success. Just in time for my trade mission to China this fall.*

- *I'm not alone in believing that China is the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st century. Premier Harris has already been to China, and brought home a number of agreements.*

Now you might think, as I did, that if anyone would oppose our trip to China, it would be the Dalai Lama.

But you would be wrong.

I met with the Dalai Lama during his recent visit to the Twin Cities, and was surprised to discover we had quite a bit in common.

I found out we share a similar view on engaging the world in order to spread free markets and free ideals. The Dalai Lama believes we cannot close our doors to those around us, and that we must develop relationships with the Chinese people and the Chinese government.

If we don't, we will not change minds. We will not open markets. We will not move forward.

- *We must continue to move forward, and expand the benefits we have enjoyed under NAFTA . We need to urge our national governments to implement a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, so that our manufacturers can have better access to markets throughout our hemisphere.*
  Minnesota exports to Canada have more than doubled since the 1989 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. We need to be able to tap the same potential in Central and South America.

I'm sorry I couldn't meet with the Premier on this mission, but if I were in his shoes, I would be exactly where he is. In Moscow, promoting Toronto's bid for the 2008 Summer Olympics!

Now this is a man who knows what it takes to be a global competitor. I wish him the best of luck.

And I know that Premier Harris and I would have talked about ways we can strengthen the many partnerships that benefit Ontario and Minnesota:

- *Like the Canada-U.S. Partnership, and its effort to make it easier to move goods, services and people across the border*

- *The Canadian Minnesota Business Council, which gives more than 100 companies a forum to share information and discuss important trade and economic issues.*

- *And the newly formed Northwest-Midwest Alliance, which just opened an office in Minneapolis to promote cross-border business expansions between northwestern Ontario and several midwestern states.*

Minnesota and Ontario cooperate on issues ranging from education to energy to conservation of our shared natural resources, including Lake Superior!

And our people are close. Thunder Bay has not one, but two sister city relationships in Minnesota. One with Duluth, and the other with Little Canada, just north of the Twin Cities. Every year, Little Canada celebrates its connections and its heritage with "Canadian Days."

The city's Web site even displays a logo of Canada's maple leaf!

I've had a wonderful time in Toronto. This city, and its people, have a way of making me feel right at home. It could be your:

- *Entrepreneurial spirit*
- *Well-educated, highly-skilled workforce*
- *And your strong, diverse economy*

Or maybe it's that Toronto, like Minnesota, is accessible by land, by air and by sea, and that we both enjoy a quality of life that's hard to beat.

It could also be your golf courses, like Minnesota, there are so many to choose from!

There are many similarities. Toronto and Minnesota are both known for the movies we make and the high-tech companies we attract. Toronto is known as "Silicon Valley North." Minnesota is known as "Silicon Tundra."

Okay. We've got to work on that name. But I hope our work results in more than just another cute "Silicon-Something" slogan.

Like Ontario, Minnesota is moving toward achieving one of the best telecommunications networks in the world, and Canada is helping. Onvoy, a Minnesota-based Internet provider, has extended its reach into every major city in Canada by forming a strategic alliance with Manitoba Telecom.

I'm here to promote exactly that kind of partnership, that kind of collaboration between your country and mine, your province and mine, your businesses and ours.

And I can think of nothing that should stand in our way.

I know that your mission is to enhance the competitive position of businesses here in Toronto. And in just the same way: a critical portion of my "Big Plan" for Minnesota is about strengthening Minnesota's position as a global competitor.

I'm confident that we both will succeed, with a little help from each other, and with a little collaboration between good friends and longtime partners.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Toronto tourism reception
National Club, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 11, 2001

Good evening. I'm very pleased to be here with you.

I'm especially pleased that Northwest Airlines is here with us, and their new Minnesota stopover offer is exciting news. We look forward to hosting the Canadian travelers who take advantage of this special offer to visit our state.

Canada is a close neighbor to Minnesota, so naturally, Canadians are our top international visitors. Over a half a million of our Canadian neighbors visit Minnesota annually.

Your companies help make that happen, and I'd like to say thank you for bringing those visitors to the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

I'm also here to personally invite you to visit us more often in Minnesota. To bring your tours to Explore Minnesota. Our promotional theme is "Explore Minnesota: Take Home a Story."

We know that what you're offering your customers is an experience, a quality travel experience. And the best souvenirs are the memories of these trips, the stories you bring home to tell your family and friends.

And in Minnesota, we're always looking to keep our travel experience fresh and interesting. We've been a vacation destination for about 150 years, and our beautiful lakes and woods are still part of our allure.

But we've also been developing the resources that we know today's travelers, your customers, are looking for. And we know that you are always looking for new ideas to sell to your customers.

So, today you'll find that Minnesota has:

- Some of the best golf courses in North America
- Top notch arts, museums and heritage destinations for your cultural heritage trips
- Miles of designated scenic byways to take you to places like the headwaters of the Mississippi River
- A wide range of shopping opportunities
- And excellent resorts, hotels and restaurants to serve your customers.

With our wide array of scenery and the tremendous diversity of things to see and do, Minnesota makes an excellent destination for your customers. Well, OK, I'm biased. In fact, I'm so biased, I'm called "Jesse, the Tourism Governor" back home. But really, it's a natural and easy thing for me to do, to sell the idea of exploring Minnesota. And I think you'll find that Minnesota tours can be a natural fit for your customers.

Canadians enjoy their time on the links, right? I enjoy an afternoon out on the course myself, and there are great places to golf in Minnesota. In fact, we've got 450 courses, and many of these are recent developments laid out by some of the biggest names in golf course design.

You'd want to go for the scenery alone!

Our lakeside golf resorts make a great destination, not just for their golf, but also for their fishing and other recreation. And Minnesota will host the PGA in August next summer.

An important consideration in selecting a tour route is the scenery along the way, right? Minnesota now has 20 designated scenic byways, a total of over 2,000 miles.

With our shared Great Lakes heritage, the circle tour of Lake Superior is popular with Canadians and Minnesotans alike. The North Shore of Lake Superior is incredibly beautiful. The North Shore Drive is one of only 15 nationally designated All-American Roads. It's anchored at the south end by Duluth, where the new Great Lakes Aquarium is. Another route follows the Mississippi River, including its source at Itasca State Park. And Minneapolis is home to one of the few urban scenic byways in the country.

Cultural and heritage tourism is another area we're developing in Minnesota. We've got world-class theater and art museums, including the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the Guthrie Theater, the largest regional theater in the country.

Several destinations tell the story of our diverse ethnic heritage. You can learn more about our Dakota and Ojibwe Indian heritage at museums, historic sites and powwows, or visit the Iron Range and hear about the immigrants from dozens of countries who mined the ore that helped build the country.

Minnesota is also developing its wildlife tourism. We've long been known for the quality of our outdoors experience, but we're looking for new ways to connect visitors to that experience. We now have three birding trails, driving routes to prime bird watching spots, and several birding festivals, for both avid and novice bird watchers. We also have the International Wolf Center at Ely and Eagle Watch at Wabasha.

A major stop on any visit to Minnesota is the Twin Cities, of course. It's internationally known as the home to Mall of America, shopping center for the world. It's also known for some great football and basketball games, and Canadians love to watch the Vikings and the Timberwolves play.

Our Minnesota Twins are playing great baseball this summer, and it's always fun to watch the St. Paul Saints play Winnipeg. Our new NHL hockey team, the Minnesota Wild, is already a hit at their new arena in St. Paul. It seems that there's always something new in St. Paul these days. Right now there are statues of Charlie Brown drawing crowds, just like the Snoopys did last year.

So, you can see, there's a wide variety of experiences in Minnesota you can be part of. Through the Minnesota Office of Tourism, we can offer you the resources and connections you need to plan successful tours to explore our state.

And getting here is easier than ever, with the increased air service and special stopover offer provided by our hometown Northwest Airlines.

I wish you well in your meetings with representatives of the Minnesota tourism industry this evening. I'm sure you will find even more ways to work together to bring your customers to Minnesota.

We appreciate your business, and we're here to find more ways to

build our travel business partnerships.

I'm enjoying my opportunity to visit with you here in Canada, and I hope the next time I see you, you're out and about, exploring Minnesota.

Thanks so much for being with us this evening. Please enjoy yourselves.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
COMDEX convention
Toronto Convention Centre
July 11, 2001



Thank you.

It's wonderful to be in Toronto and a real inspiration to be able to speak to so many who offer so much potential business for Minnesota.

What a perfect spot for COMDEX Canada! I'm told that Toronto is home to so many information technology companies -- it's known as "Silicon Valley North".

Since taking office in 1999, I've led trade missions halfway around the world to Japan - and south of the U.S. border to Mexico. We had wonderful and productive experiences in both countries.

But there is always something special about visiting our good neighbors and long-time friends in Canada.

- NO country is more important to us than Minnesota's number one trading partner. That's why I went to Saskatoon last fall. And that's why I'm back in Canada today. One visit just isn't enough.

Minnesota's partnership with Canada is strengthened by good friends like Consul General Susan Thompson, who I'm happy to say is with us on our mission. Thanks to Susan, I recently had the privilege of being the first governor in Minnesota history to visit the Canadian consulate in Minneapolis.

It was a great honor -- and after 30 years - long overdue.

Canada and Minnesota have nurtured the bonds of friendship and cooperation for well over a century -- and today, we're reaping the benefits of a strong and healthy relationship.

It's no wonder we do so much business together. We share common principles, common goals -- and a common border that thousands of visitors from both sides cross every day.

- About half a million Canadians come to Minnesota each year -- most of them from Ontario and Manitoba. That's partly why I'm here. I want to invite more of you to visit Minnesota more often. We offer all the cultural and natural amenities.

But more than people cross our borders. Two-way trade between Canada and Minnesota is now worth more than $7.6 billion a year.

To say that Canada is Minnesota's largest trading partner -- really doesn't say enough. You need to know just how big it really is:

- Minnesota exported more than $2.4 billion in manufactured goods to Canada last year. That's more than we sold to our next three trading partners *combined.*
- Minnesota makes more money from exports to Ontario *alone* than we do from trade with all of Japan!

But let's narrow it down at bit:

- Minnesota exports to Canada grew by 12 percent last year - largely from the sale of electronic equipment and computer components.
- And Minnesota high tech products accounted for $1 billion of all our manufactured exports to Canada.

So I hope you get a good look at what we have to offer at the Minnesota Pavilion. I know you'll like what you see.

- Minnesota companies are *world competitors* in technology and innovation.

We have been a breeding ground for information technologies ever since a University of Minnesota graduate by the name of Seymour Cray developed the supercomputer more than 50 years ago.

Today, Minnesota has nearly 8,000 high tech industries employing 200 thousand people-making us the fourth largest concentration of software companies in the United States.

- World-class, home-grown pioneers like Control Data, Honeywell and Cargill have helped create a *tech-smart* environment that attracts the best and the brightest from around the world.
- Minnesota companies are leading suppliers of voice, video and data systems
- And Minnesota ingenuity is revolutionizing the entertainment, data storage and printing industries.

It's no wonder Canada is our largest customer for industrial machinery - including computer-related goods and Minnesota-made electronic and electrical equipment.

Minnesota is also home to a thriving medical technology industry.

- Places like the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota -- together with companies like Medtronic and 3M -- have made Minnesota a world leader in medical devices, research and biotechnology.

Minnesota's innovative research institutions, educated labor force and high-tech environment all contribute to a quality of life that's hard to beat. Sometimes *impossible* to beat.

- Minnesota was recently named the "Most Livable State" in the United States - *for the fifth year in a row* - by an independent research company.

  The researchers themselves couldn't believe it. They thought about changing their methodology to give other states a chance -- but they knew that wouldn't be right.

  Minnesota won fair and square - based on more than 40 "quality of life" factors - such as health, income, housing, education and recreational facilities.

- Minnesota even scores high in the "Coolness Ranking" -- and that's not just because I'm Governor.

  Carnegie Mellon University ranked the Twin Cities among the top ten places in the country for its concentration of creative people -- and for its cultural attractions for young technology workers. They seem to love all our lakes, bike trails, golf courses and live entertainment.

That got us thinking. About the OTHER Silicon Valley.

With our tech-smart environment -- and great quality of life -- why not invite some companies in California to the land of ample energy?

- You may have heard that California is having problems with power outages - or "black-outs". Well, the only problem we face in Minnesota are occasional "white-outs" from blinding snowstorms. It's just part of our charm.
- So we bought a billboard outside the San Jose airport that invites high tech companies to "Upgrade to Minnesota". Our slogan:
- White-outs: Occasional. Black-outs: NEVER.

We have a sense of humor in Minnesota.

But seriously - think about it:

Office space in San Jose: $80 a square foot.
Office space in the Twin Cities: $20 a square foot.

You do the math!

At least one company *did* -- and took us up on our offer. And there are other good prospects.

Minnesota *is* a great state. I'm proud of our entrepreneurial spirit, our skilled workforce and our diverse economy.

But as Governor, I know we can't sit back and rest on our laurels in a world that is changing and getting smaller by the *second.* In the words of Will Rogers:

"Even if you are on the right track-if you don't keep moving, you're going to get run over."

- We need to do everything we can to create *better* jobs and make our economy even stronger, because it's not enough to be the best in the country.
- We must strive to lead the world.
- And we must work hard to build relationships outside our borders.

That's why I went to Washington last year and testified in support of permanent normal trade relationships with China. I'm happy to say the *tri-partisan* effort was a success-just in time for my trade mission to China this fall.

Premier Harris is one step ahead of us. He went to China a few

months ago and came home with several new agreements. We *both* see China as the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st century.

- Now I'm urging Congress to support a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas -- to give our manufacturers better access to markets right here in our hemisphere.

A major portion of my Big Plan for Minnesota is about knocking down barriers that cripple our ability to compete in the global marketplace.

Free trade eliminates barriers. So does technology. And I've worked hard to be the champion for cutting edge technologies that connect us with the world in new and better ways.

I started in my own office - by making citizen outreach a top priority in my administration. Just recently, we unveiled our new and improved web site.

It's called Virtual Ventura.

I don't see why government can't be FUN - at least when the legislature is not in session.

Especially if it helps citizens stay in touch and know what I'm up to. They can look at my schedule, read about our policies -- even invite me to events.

Now people are *always* telling me where to go.

But let's face it. The most dynamic web site in the world is useless without ACCESS. And Canada is an important partner in our efforts to connect people in the most remote areas to the rest of the world.

Thanks to its strategic alliance with Manitoba Telecom Services, Minnesota-based Onvoy has extended its telecommunications network into every major city in Canada.

The barriers came down -- and the connections were made -- a long time ago between Minnesota and Canada. Today -- our commitment to each other has only made us stronger - in trade, tourism and business.

And our bilateral investments continue to create high wage, high skill jobs on both sides of the border:

Toronto-based Celestica -- the world's largest manufacturer of electronics -- already employs 1,800 workers in Rochester, Minnesota. And when it buys IBM's electronic card assembly and test operations in Rochester, the company will hire another 700 people.

When The Thomson Corporation of Toronto bought West Publishing in St. Paul in 1996-it was able to tap into West Group technologies and a highly skilled workforce. The move strengthened Thomson's position as a world leader in e-information services - and helped Minnesota become a global center for information technology development.

Canadian investors own a $3.4 billion stake in more than 100 Minnesota companies.

And Canadian subsidiaries of Minnesota giants like 3M, Medtronic and ADC Telecommunications are helping to strengthen Canada's razor-sharp edge in technology.

Earlier today, I stopped by the exhibit hall and had a chance to meet people in both Minnesota's and Canada's high-tech industries. I left with the overwhelming sense that opportunity is not only knocking- but *pounding* at our door.

The similarities between Minnesota and Canada put us on the track toward the same destination. And our differences create opportunities that will get us there together. Minnesota is moving - and I'm happy to be here exploring how we can move together with our number one partner - Canada.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Tax bill signing ceremony
Harold E. Stassen Revenue Building, St. Paul
June 30, 2001

Good afternoon. Thank you Matt.

I can't tell you how proud I am of my commissioners and my staff.

Two years ago when we first started to develop a policy agenda, I knew I didn't like the fundamental structure of the tax system in Minnesota and I set out to change it.

I knew enough about our total tax system that I had strong feelings it was not only unfair and susceptible to political manipulation, but in need of updating to be more efficient in the new economy.

My experience as a citizen taxpayer and as a mayor has served as a catalyst for me to developing very strong feelings about our tax system.

And you know what? It isn't just me. A lot of other Minnesotans have similar feelings.

My instincts were right.

And so we went forward to develop a plan. A *Big Plan*.

And our effort to change the fundamental concepts of how we tax, who we tax, what taxes we most rely on and how much we tax, not only became a big part of that *Big Plan*, it has now led us into a new era of taxation in Minnesota.

While many leaders-leaders with great knowledge of the details of our taxing systems-have tried to change the system over the years it just never got done.

To those leaders I say thanks. Thanks for keeping the dream alive. Thanks for the debates, thanks for insight, thanks for never giving

up.

But most of all I say thanks to my cabinet. Thanks to my staff. Thanks to the advocates of tax fairness and tax reform. Thanks for believing that this *Big Tax Plan* could become a reality.

To Commissioner Matt Smith-Thanks for the details. Thanks for your brilliance. Thanks for your quiet assurance. Thanks for your confidence.

To Commissioner Pam Wheelock-Thanks for your loyalty. Thanks for your moxie. Thanks for your tenacity.

And finally Pam, we know these past few weeks have been a difficult time for you personally- thank you for putting the peoples work above your own needs.

Thanks to my staff, thanks to my family, and thanks to the people for helping me to lead a tax revolution in Minnesota.

And thanks to the legislature who overwhelmingly voted to approve this measure. There are 201 legislators (some might say that's quite a lot) and amazingly 172 of them voted for this bill. (With that kind of support it makes you wonder why it took so long to get it done.)

I know that some will continue to say that I am not engaged, but there is a group of six people that I must have had about 200 meetings with in the last six months.

I want to thank the group of six.

But this is an order:

When I come down the steps at the Governor's residence next week I don't want to see you sitting around my dining room table.

There is a lot of change in this bill. It is historic and bold right down to the last detail.

Tax relief and tax reform. I've said it so many times.

But it <u>is</u> a *Big Plan* and I know that my chief of staff is already looking ahead. Rest assured, come Monday Steven Bosacker will be at work at six in the morning making plans for the next *Big Plan* agenda.

But that's good. Because you can be assured that I am not done yet.

Thank you.

I will now sign the bill and then take a few questions.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Taxpayers Association
Sheraton Midway, St. Paul
June 28, 2001

Good Afternoon.

Moments ago I left the State Capitol building in St. Paul.

Just prior to my leaving the Minnesota House **was debating** the tax bill. My expectation is that later today the same bill will be passed by the Senate.

And tomorrow I expect sign it.

And once I sign this tax bill it should mark the end of a historic session.

A session that produced a tax bill that eliminates the general education levy in Minnesota and, as a result, greatly reduces our dependence on the property tax to fund K-12 education and will provide almost $900 million dollars in property tax relief to Minnesota taxpayers.

It is a tax bill that will be the envy of other states and the beginning of a new era in taxation in Minnesota.

A new era that will be marked with tax reason and tax fairness.

A new era in which Minnesota businesses will be more competitive with businesses in our neighboring states.

A new era in which cabin owners can finally free themselves of "taxation without representation."

A new era when the property tax will truly be a local tax.

A new era in which the word "accountability" will be stamped

on every tax dollar sent to every government agency in Minnesota.

If, as expected, this tax bill is passed, it will be a sweet victory. But it was not easy.

Many people worked long and hard hours to accomplish this historic tax relief and tax reform. And to all my staff my cabinet and their staffs, I am very grateful.

It also took the hard work and support of organizations like yours to achieve this historic bill-and I want you to know how much I appreciate it.

The economic times were right, the will of the people was there and we didn't give up when the going got tough.

We swung hard and we connected.

This bill, ladies and gentlemen-is a home run.

Two and one half years ago I came into the governor's office with a goal of lowering the rate of increases in state government spending, rebating the accumulated surpluses and reduce the tax burden on all Minnesotans.

Imagine this:

If the legislature passes this bill today-from the time I took office to the end of fiscal year 2003-Minnesota taxpayers will have saved:

- $3.1 billion off their income taxes
- $858 million off their property taxes
- $475 million off their motor vehicle license fees
- $69 million off a other miscellaneous taxes, and
- $6 million off their sales taxes.

That's a total of $4.4 billion dollars off Minnesotans total tax bill.

And that's not all:

Since the Ventura administration began Minnesotans have received sales tax rebates totaling $2.67 billion dollars.

While I am proud of these tax relief numbers I am just as proud of tax reform and limited government spending.

Over the last twenty years the average biennial budget increase has

been 12.8%.

Based on the agreement we have with legislative leaders, when all the spending bills are passed, the total rate of increase in state spending for the next biennium will be around 6.8%.

In fact, the last time a budget increase was held to single digits was in the 1992-93 biennium when the Carlson administration was facing a $2 billion dollar budget shortfall.

I know that some will not agree with this path of lower taxes and lower spending. But I would remind you that in this same time I have approved permanent increases in spending to K-12 education by over $1.3 billion dollars.

And more importantly I have challenged the educational systems of this state to make the absolute most of every tax dollar they receive.

I appreciate your invitation here today.

And while many of the laws of which I spoke have not been signed into law, I hope that I can at least relieve the anxiety of state employees and Minnesotans in general by saying that it looks like we can finish the job we have started in order to avoid a shutdown.

Yes, there are still some hurdles that we must overcome to avoid a limited shutdown. But again, there is no need for that to happen.

If the legislature is true to the overall spending agreements we reached with leadership these bills can be concluded and passed.

And finally, I would remind the legislature that it would be a shame to shut down parts of state government because of their insistence on putting social issue language in an omnibus spending issue.

We have very little time left.

Should it have gone this long? No, it should not have. In fact, based on comments in today's paper, even some legislators admit to being discouraged by this process.

But for now let us appreciate our accomplishments and remember that these accomplishments are the result of compromise. Could we have done more?

Yes.

But we had to give up some things that we would have liked to do.

Did I want income tax cuts? Yes.

Did I want to expand and lower the sales tax? Yes.

Did I want comprehensive campaign finance reform? Yes.

Did others want more? Yes.

Did many in your group want to address the single sales factor? Yes.

Did many in your group want to eliminate the provider tax? Yes.

Did many Minnesotans want more money for schools, nursing homes, the environment and recreation? Yes.

But under the circumstances we couldn't do it all. Compromise and attention to responsible fiscal management in a time of economic slowdown are necessary elements in this process.

It's time to do what we can, celebrate our success, and then move forward to another day and another session.

It should be interesting.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Speech to encourage mentoring
Governor's Residence
June 27, 2001

This speech was delivered to 40 Minnesota business leaders

Welcome to the Residence and thank you for attending this important effort.

This is a tough time at the capitol but critical needs go on and this is why I want to take the time and show my support of the mentoring initiatives of the Partnership.

I'm here today to ask you to invest-to invest in our kids-and to invest in our future.

I understand that the Business Partnership and the Mentoring Partnership teamed up nearly five years ago to promote youth mentoring among MBP members.

Last year about 40 MBP members supported mentoring in one way or another, which reached roughly 7,000 Minnesota kids.

That's great, but I see a lot of room for improvement.

I'm told that Partnership members employ some 370,000 Minnesotans.

Convince just 1 percent of those employees to get involved in mentoring and you'll increase the number of kids being mentored by more than 50 percent.

That's Ron Turner's goal for the year, and it is why he asked me to invite you here for breakfast today.

My job here is to help raise the importance of mentoring and to get it on your radar screens, to tell you that mentoring is one of the most effective ways to address problems like truancy and dropout

rates, poor academic performance, juvenile crime, and in the long run, poverty, homelessness and dependence on government programs.

I read an article in last weekend's paper that I'd like to share with you. Please take it with you, read it, and you'll get a good idea of what mentoring can do for not only a child and society, but for you.

In the article it mentions e-mentoring, which links mentors and students by e-mail and the Internet. Programs like e-mentoring are a good example of how even the busiest of us can contribute.

If your company is involved in mentoring, that's great. It gives you something to build on.

If your company isn't involved in mentoring, get involved. Ask the Mentoring Partnership to help you start a program. Or invite them in to recruit some of your employees for one of the dozens of programs that are looking for mentors.

Thank you for coming today.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota State Bar Association Convention
RiverCentre, St. Paul
June 21, 2001

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the Minnesota State Bar Association convention today and talk about judicial selection.

Thank you Dick for your kind introduction.

Before I get to judicial selection I thought I would just talk briefly about the status of the special session.

As lawyers and members of the bench I am assume that you are as frustrated as I am with the legislature and their inability to do their duty.

Isn't it ironic that you, as officers of the court, are required to live up to your oath of office. If you don't, there are consequences. Right?

Well what about the legislature? Isn't their principle duty to make laws by which public policy is established?

Didn't each one of them take an oath of office and swear to live up to their constitutional responsibility?

I think it's time for the people to demand that the legislature come to agreement and as it says in the Minnesota State Constitution; "discharge faithfully the duties of their office."

While accountability is the thread that binds the integrity of our government, it is the responsibility of the people to provide that accountability.

That is why I believe the people must hold our legislature accountable not only for the laws they pass but for the laws that

they do not pass.

And to get on to the reason I was invited here, I also think that the people should hold me accountable for my action as governor, and one of the more important responsibilities I have is to appoint judges to the court.

The appointment of judges is one of the longest-lasting legacies of a Governor and therefore one of the most important functions I perform as Governor. I know that the policy initiatives I have advanced could be undone by the legislature after I leave office, but the judges I appoint will likely continue to serve on the bench for 20 to 30 years after I am gone.

Since taking office two-and-a-half years ago, I have appointed 33 district court judges. I have also appointed two Court of Appeals judges.

The Commission on Judicial Selection, which reviews judicial applications, conducts preliminary interviews and recommends finalists to me for district court vacancies, has sent an average of three finalists per vacancy to me for my consideration. I asked my at-large appointees to the Commission on Judicial Selection to follow a similar process for the two Court of Appeals vacancies as well.

In each instance, I have appointed a judge from among the list of finalists recommended to me. The Commission has consistently sent me top caliber candidates and I am confident that I could have appointed any one of the finalists they recommended to me and that person would have been a solid judge.

I know the Commission puts in a lot of time on each judgeship they consider and they take their work seriously. I want to publicly thank them for the excellent job they have done.

Keep up the good work!

I know a lot of people want to know what I look for in a judicial candidate. By the time the candidates get into my office, they all have the necessary legal experience to be a solid judge. So I look for people with good temperament who will treat the people that appear before them with respect and fairness.

I also look for people who are active in the community or in professional legal associations such as holding officer positions in their district bar association, and while I don't want district

court judges to rewrite the law from the bench, I like candidates who are innovative in their approach to the handling of cases and who will be proactive in their job.

Finally, I like people who have some balance to their personal lives.

I do not ask the candidate's political affiliation nor do I ask how the candidate would rule on a particular case. The judiciary must be fair and impartial to continue to earn the trust of the citizens.

To have a political litmus test or an issue-based agenda in my appointments would undermine the bench and call into question the fairness of the judiciary.

This is also why I am opposed to the endorsement of judicial candidates by political parties and by special-interest groups.

I also enjoy announcing the successful judicial candidate from the courthouse where the judge will be chambered when I can. It is great to see a huge turnout from the community at these announcements and helps to reinforce the importance of the position.

I understand that three of the judges I appointed to their current positions on the bench will be talking to you a little later. I also see some other judges in the audience whom I appointed. I have heard great things about your work on the bench and I commend you all for your excellence.

If any of you lawyers in the audience are thinking of applying for a future vacancy, I encourage you to do so. It is an open process and I think you will find it a rewarding experience, even if you are not the successful candidate.

Thank you again for inviting me today and thank you all for attending.

I hope you have a successful convention.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Trade Show
Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul
June 20, 2001



Thank you, Gene.

Welcome to Minnesota. I'm glad you were able to come to Minnesota in June rather than July. While it may be a little rainy in June at least the government is still running.

In case you haven't heard I got a little tax and spending battle going with the Minnesota Legislature. We're in special session right now and if we don't come to agreement by June 30 the government shuts down.

I don't understand why they can't agree.

One of the things I want to do is lower property taxes for farmers by about 22%.

While it is difficult for government do anything about the price of corn-by reducing property taxes we can cut a farmers cost of doing business.

So I hope the legislature will see the benefit of my tax plan like they saw the benefit of developing the ethanol business in Minnesota.

And of course ethanol is what you are interested in.

We're proud here in Minnesota to be known as the pioneer of the ethanol industry.

For the last two decades, we have worked hard to build up this industry as a way to help our farmers get more money for their corn, while at the same time protect our natural resources and reduce our reliance on foreign fuel.

Minnesota currently has 14 ethanol plants, which produce 250 million gallons of ethanol each year. Twelve of those 14 plants are farmer-owned, with more than 8,000 farmer-investors.

Today more than 17 percent of Minnesota's corn crop is used for industrial processing, up from zero percent in 1986. That processing adds more than $200 million in annual value to Minnesota commodities.

The economic impact includes 750 jobs in the plants, with a total payroll of more than $25 million. And most of those benefits go to rural areas of the state.

Through ethanol production, Minnesota has also reduced our dependence on foreign oil. USDA figures show that each gallon of ethanol we produce cuts our necessary oil imports by 7 gallons.

With nearly 10 percent of our gasoline replaced by cleaner-burning ethanol, the Twin Cities area is meeting carbon monoxide standards for the first time since the 1970s.

One of the best indications of this program's success is the national and international attention it has received.

Minnesota's ethanol program has been studied across the country and we've even hosted visitors from Lithuania, Thailand, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Nigeria and South Africa.

No doubt the biggest recent development for the ethanol industry is the decision by the Bush administration to deny California's request to be exempted from the oxygenated fuel requirement.

This is good news for Minnesota farmers, and it is good news for California consumers.

California has 34 million people, and they spend a lot of time behind the wheel. Its good to know that now Minnesota farmers will benefit from their love of the road.

Some observers are predicting that this increased demand for corn will increase prices by 10 to 15 cents. That much of an increase could translate into more than $1 billion for U.S. corn producers.

Minnesota stands to reap a good share of that windfall, with corn growers in this state producing 10 percent of the nation's corn and roughly 8 percent of its ethanol.

As you can see, there still is good news to share about ethanol in Minnesota. We're proud to be a leader in this industry and we intend to keep reaping the benefits of ethanol production.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
PGA Championship Announcement
Crystal Court, IDS Center, Minneapolis
June 19, 2001

PGA Championship 2002 - Welcome to Minnesota!

It's very exciting to have one of golf's top four tournaments coming to Minnesota, hosted by our very own Hazeltine National. They're going to do a terrific job for the PGA and for the state of Minnesota.

As a golfer myself, I think it's great to be able to see such exciting golf in our own back yard. But as governor, I have even bigger reasons to be excited about hosting the PGA Championship for the fourth time in Minnesota.

The PGA Championship is a global event. It draws global media coverage, and global spectatorship among golf fans around the world. So, it's a great opportunity to tell the story of Minnesota golf.

Minnesota is quickly becoming a golf destination. We've always had a large number of excellent courses-scenic and challenging. But in the past five to eight years there have been a number of exciting new courses that have opened across the state, created by some of golf's best course designers. So, our golf product is even better now than it's ever been.

Golfers are a bit like fishermen. Sometimes they like to keep their favorite course to themselves. But Minnesota wants to share its golfing wealth. The Minnesota Office of Tourism has worked closely with the state's golf destinations to develop the Explore Minnesota Golf Alliance.

For the past three years, this organization has been getting the word out about Minnesota golfing. Dozens of Minnesota golf courses,

resorts and communities are participating in the alliance.

And so hosting the PGA Championship next year is a huge opportunity for Minnesota to be in the golf spotlight. With golf fans and media coming from around the world, we'll have the perfect audience to pitch our golf story to.

And we're going to take full advantage of that opportunity. The Minnesota Office of Tourism is hosting international tour operators and airline representatives for the event, to build future business on our golf product. Minnesota will be offering media and spectators the opportunity to golf at many of out finest courses, including our beautiful golf resorts.

And while it's a terrific opportunity to build future business for Minnesota, this event will also be an excellent business opportunity in itself. Previous sites of the PGA Championship have documented a tremendous dollar impact on the host area.

In August 2002, the Twin Cities area stands to gain 50 to 80 million dollars in direct and indirect economic impact. Golf isn't just good fun; it's good business.

So today's launch of public ticket sales to the PGA Championship 2002 at Hazeltine National Golf Club is the start of something big. I expect Minnesota's support of this event to exceed that of every previous site that it's been held.

Jim, Julius and Barry Deach of the PGA, and Bill, Patrick Hunt and others from Hazeltine National - thanks for your commitment to Minnesota and a great golf event.

We're glad you came to "Explore Minnesota Golf"!

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Forest Summit
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids
May 30, 2001

Welcome

I'm glad to be here today to kick off this important event.

Managing our state's wealth of natural resources is an important priority to me.

I encourage members of my administration to demonstrate leadership and ask them to look beyond the status quo and yesterday's thinking.

This Forest Summit is an excellent example of looking toward the future. I congratulate Commissioner Garber for setting the stage for the discussions you will have over the next two days.

This summit is important:

Minnesota's forests are critical to our quality of life. They are a foundation for a:

- Healthy environment including clean water, clear air and a healthy wildlife habitat.
- For a healthy economy including forest products industries, tourism and recreation.
- And forests promote a healthy social/cultural environment-our forests are part of our heritage, they allow our north woods communities to thrive, and they are a place for people to go to get away from the city.

I challenge you to re-think the status quo in how we manage our forests:

- **To better position Minnesota as a world competitor in a**

global forest products industry
- **To find balance in how we manage forests to provide greater long-term stability**
- **To help maintain the beauty of our forests that citizens and visitors come to expect**

I encourage greater cooperation and building of partnerships:

- **There are many different groups represented here who have more than a passing interest in our forests.**
- **It should not be the role of government to, on its own, take on the challenges facing Minnesota's forests.**
- **The best solutions lie in working together: linking resources and knowledge for more effective results.**

Minnesotans want to know that their forests are being carefully managed.

I encourage you to quickly move from planning to action:

- **As you implement actions, communicate the results using good science.**
- **Always measure the results of what you promise, Measure what counts, encourage success, and build understanding and support for forest management.**

The success at this summit will depend on the quality of your participation:

- **Share information**
- **Share perspectives**
- **Seek innovative solutions**
- **And make commitments to move forward**

Before I leave, I want to share with you how important forests are to me. Each year my Southside buddies and I go up North- (expands on outdoors story)

Over the next two days:

- **Keep your minds open and focused on the possibilities**
- **And have some fun**

Thank you.

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Property tax and school finance proposal
State Capitol
May 25, 2001

It is no secret that I share the frustration of nearly 5 million Minnesotans that the Legislature has failed to accomplish its work during the 2001 regular session.

Contrary to uninformed editorial writers, in the days since the end of the regular session, my staff, my commissioners and I, have worked hard to help facilitate progress in resolving the budget and tax issues that separate the House and Senate.

It has been a frustrating experience. And in many ways it mirrors the political landscape. Two polarized political parties trying desperately to be true to their convictions and their principles. But in this system there must be compromise. We cannot fail. We must come to a middle ground.

Two times in this process I have made specific proposals to help them reach the middle ground. After being told countless times that a deal is close, yesterday I was informed that the House and the Senate were deadlocked and asked me to step in one more time to try to resolve the impasse.

Late yesterday and last night we put together a proposal that my commissioners and staff presented to the House and Senate early this morning.

Up to now this process has been pretty much going on in private. As a result many observers are getting a skewed perception of my involvement. Today I am proposing, in public, a solution to end the budget stalemate and allow the Legislature to complete its work.

The plan I put on the table this morning is not a compromise where everyone has to settle for second best. My commissioners have been working hard these past few weeks to listen attentively

to the concerns and hopes expressed by both the House Republicans and Senate Democrats on what they want to achieve in reforming our tax and school funding systems. This plan gives both the House and the Senate much of what they have told us is most important to them while preserving the bold property tax reform and relief that I first proposed in December of last year. And does it in a responsible way.

Here are the key elements of my proposal:

- Eliminate the state-mandated general education property tax levy, and other property tax levies that fund statewide or regional, rather than local needs. This will provide for double-digit property tax relief next year, and restore the property tax to what it was supposed to be local tax, controlled by local citizens.

- Achieve dramatic reform of the property tax classification system. This will give us fairer, more uniform taxation of different kinds of homes and will reduce our nationally high tax burdens on businesses and apartment properties to improve our economic development and competitiveness.

- Make the school funding system more uniform across school districts by increasing the general education per-pupil amount by $310 per student, by replacing that same amount of referendum revenue with state funding. This will give additional property tax relief and stabilize revenues in most districts.

This package delivers most of the key goals that have been expressed by legislative leaders of both houses during the past few days of budget negotiations. But it is important to be clear that this is a compromise and not anyone's Plan A.

But clearly it delivers on the promise I made to Minnesotans last January: permanent property tax relief starting next year, combined with fundamental reforms of the tax and school financing system. I urge the legislative leadership to accept it and commit to a completion date.

Today we're standing at the edge of the most sweeping property tax and school financing reforms of the past thirty years. If we step forward boldly we will deliver our citizens and taxpayers a lower, simpler, fairer and more competitive property tax, and a more fair, understandable, and uniform means of paying for our

public schools.

But we must not delay. In order for counties and school districts to implement these reforms it is imperative that we complete the special session by the week of June 11. If we continue to hesitate and delay, we risk losing opportunities for reform and tax relief that may never reappear, and if no budget is enacted at all, our citizens and institutions will be threatened with grave harm.

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Big Plan-Results

Safe driving message
Ft. Snelling Cemetery
May 23, 2001

Audio

Good morning.

I am honored to be here today to pay tribute to the memory of our veterans as we head into the Memorial Holiday weekend.



It is important to remember the real meaning of this holiday and to pay respects to the men and women who have fought to keep us free, fought and died for us, ensuring us the privileges that a democracy provides.

Many people think of this holiday only as the traditional beginning of summer, and a day off.

This weekend many people will forget that driving a car is not a right that is owed to anyone.

It's a privilege and should be treated as such.

Unfortunately, a lot of Minnesotans will abuse that privilege.

They'll speed.

They won't put on a seatbelt.

They'll pay no attention to the fact that their child car-seat isn't

installed properly.

And they'll drive drunk.

The veterans who are memorialized behind me didn't die for these abuses.

They deserve better.

And so do the 8 people who will die on our roads over the course of Memorial Day weekend.

The goal is to get drunks off the roads.

And let me clue you in on something. I'm not saying *where* our state troopers and police will be. All I'm saying is they'll be where drunk drivers won't want them to be.

So be forewarned.

I urge every Minnesotan to be careful and safe this holiday weekend and every time they use the privilege of driving a car.

I ask this for the people on our roads and for the men and women who fought so hard for each of us to have such privileges at all.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Meeting
Minneapolis Hilton
May 17, 2001

Good afternoon.

Thanks for inviting me to Minneapolis. You can't imagine how glad I am to be over here rather than back at the capitol.

We'll talk more about it later but I'm sure some of you have heard about the *Nightmare on Constitution Avenue* last night.

I am told that this speech is being broadcast live on Minnesota Public Radio.

I suppose I better be careful referring to such lowbrow movies, because you know how sophisticated and intelligent Public Radio's audience is.

So given that we are live on Public Radio, I'll take this speech to a higher level so we don't have a failure to communicate.

I can do that you know. In fact there are a lot of people who think that if I would do it more often I wouldn't get in so much trouble.

But while I have learned a lot in the last two years, I still believe that much of what this job is about is common sense.

Of course it's not a simple job and you have to know a lot in order to apply your common sense values. But in the end I find that I do my best when I am true to myself.

I have to look at myself in the mirror at the end of each day. And I want you to know that I can still do that.

When I was elected I told my new staff that, I was not going to change who I am.

I knew I might upset some people, and I knew that this job would not be easy. But I also knew that if I was true to my provocative character, I could make people think about things that a conventional politician might shy away from.

In my view there are no sacred cows.

A few weeks ago I ran into my old friend Bill Walton and he reminded me of an old Abby Hoffman quote. It goes like this:

"Remember, it's the sacred cows that always taste the best."

And so as I look back, I am proud that I have not caved in to the conventional wisdom and tried to be someone that I am not.

I am not someone who backs down from a firmly held principle.

And I've never been afraid of sacred cows.

I call things as I see them, and I will not let politics get in the way of doing the right thing.

I got elected to this office because of these values and I believe I continue to have the support of the people because of these values.

I have lectured at Harvard, Carleton and Georgetown and written in the William Mitchell and Stanford Law Reviews about these values.

In spite of all the tricks, schemes, and game playing that goes on in a legislative session, I have upheld these values.

And in the next few days, no matter what happens, be assured that no matter how popular-or unpopular-the issue, I will be loyal to my deeply held values.

Be assured that I will be true to my belief that our K-12 education system should be accountable for the over 8 billion dollars they get every two years.

Be assured that I will hold firm on property tax relief to businesses that are taxed at the highest rate in the nation.

Be assured that I will not give up on reforming our tax system by abolishing the state mandated general education levy.

Be assured that I will be true to:

- Benefits for domestic partners

- Improving health care for kids
- Preventing teenage pregnancy
- Support for family planning
- Campaign finance reform
- Multi-modal transportation,
- And the modernization of workforce development.

And be assured that during these last few days-and during the entire summer and fall-I will continue to speak out against a legislative process that is putting meaningful progress on these issues, and for that matter the entire session, at risk.

Earlier this session two of the most powerful special interest groups in Minnesota-Education Minnesota and Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life-testified against certain measures that would fix our broken campaign finance system.

Why? Because the system as we know it gives incredible power to sacred cows and politically ruthless single issue interest groups.

The result is, they control the debate so that other important issues get left by the wayside or are left to be dealt with at the last second without adequate time to hold reasonable debate.

No single issue should occupy the agenda so thoroughly that it prevents an orderly and timely debate of campaign finance reform.

No single issue should divide people so much that reasonable compromise becomes impossible.

And no single issue should put a legislative session at risk.

They have been at it since the first week in January.

I believe that five months is adequate time to accomplish our goals.

Do you know that with just 9 days left in the session the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader had not even met to talk about how they can come together on spending targets?

I was meeting with the two of them and was appalled when they told me they had never met.

Can you imagine? In five months they just hadn't gotten around to it.

These are the guys who take every opportunity to criticize me for not being engaged.

Perhaps its about time the media follow them around and find out just what it is they do with their time?

I delivered my budget to the legislature in January.

I believe that five months is adequate time to pass a rebate that includes 100 % of the current biennium's surplus.

I believe that five months is enough time to figure out how to fund transit, roads and bridges.

And I believe that five months is enough time to fix the way we pay for our environmental regulation.

But it never is.

Why? Because the system is flawed.

Last year I asked the legislature to change the way we do business and start the process of adopting a one-house legislature.

Of course even though the polls said that over 80% of people wanted to vote on a unicameral system-the legislature thought they knew better. They said no.

They stood with lobbyists and special interest groups, afraid to change the status quo because the result might be that the people would have more power than a conference committee or a special interest group.

The system we have now is just fine, they said. A little fixing here and there, and we can eliminate the cynicism and distrust that the people generally have in government.

Well gee. Isn't it funny that the *fixing* never happened and today the people are as bewildered as ever?

The *fixing* never happened and so we have a single issue that has taken an inordinate amount of time away from this session.

Incredibly, important issues have been falling by the wayside with legislators lamenting that "there just isn't time."

There just isn't time?

There just isn't time to deal with the need for telecommunications reform?

There just isn't time to deal with campaign finance reform?

There just isn't time to deal with funding for the DNR?

There just isn't time to fix an outdated funding mechanism for the Pollution Control Agency.

But for the second year in a row there was time to fix the "hotdish" problem.

They had time to deal with kids drinking soda pop in school.

They had time to wrestle with the difficult issue of kids and tattoos.

Perhaps the legislature needs help defining what is a parental issue and what is a public policy issue.

And finally, because Representative Matt Entenza seems to be obsessed with my private life, the House has spent countless hours of committee time trying to ban my private life.

In fact it now seems incredible that Representative Entenza is saying that the reason the legislature is "adrift" is because I was working XFL games on Saturday nights.

Unbelievable.

I have to believe that even the people who listen to public radio are confused.

As I have said so many times; we desperately need to change this system.

We need a system that is more accountable, more fair and more understandable.

But legislators will use the lamest of excuses for their abuse of the bicameral system.

In a unicameral system, similar to the one in Nebraska, this kind of political maneuvering would be unnecessary.

A unicameral system like Nebraska's could provide every legislator an opportunity to bring one bill of his or her choice to the floor for a vote.

Representative Boudreau: In a unicameral system you would not have had to deal with a powerful committee chair who initially

refused to hear your concealed carry bill.

Speaker Sviggum: In a unicameral system you would not have had to use up precious legislative days trying to maneuver your 24-hour waiting period bill into a position to overcome the maneuvering of the Senate Majority leader.

In a unicameral system we would easily have had a vote by now on the ballpark issue and know where legislators stand.

In a unicameral system we could avoid all this nonsense and actually move important revenue and spending bills through before the last week of session.

In a unicameral system we would have had discussions on spending targets before the last week of the session.

In a unicameral system we would have had tax bills on the floor in the second month of the session instead of the fifth month.

Yesterday, I was informed that a newspaper editorial page writer said that this last minute, end of session confusion is the result of tripartisan government.

I don't know who wrote that but he or she must have just starting covering legislative sessions since my election.

I know that whatever system you use is not going to be perfect. But why not try something more constructive, more accountable and more fair?

And what about personal responsibility? If a bicameral system is what you want then use it responsibly.

The fact is, no issue is so important that it justifies risking the integrity of the legislative process.

I believe that five months is enough time to get a bill to the floor and vote it up or down.

The people deserve at least that much.

We have four and one half days left in this session.

If, for whatever reason in those four and one half days, we do not pass-at a minimum:

- significant property tax reductions and the elimination of the

general education levy
- a rebate that includes all of this biennium's surplus, and
- spending bills that do important things but check the growth of government,

I will be very, very disappointed. And you should be disappointed too. Disappointed that 201 legislators were given an opportunity to do great things and they did not.

I hope the people understand how big this deal is. Why would we pass up this historic opportunity? I guarantee you that this is a unique opportunity. We will not get this chance again next year, or perhaps ever.

But that doesn't seem to matter to some legislators. To them it's all about politics. Who wins is what they ask.

Which party will have an advantage when they run for re-election?

I continue to be confused.

What about the people? Isn't it about the people?

If the legislature is listening I hope you hear this message:

Its not about Democrats and Republicans-its about the people.

And if you don't agree you are so out of touch that it is no wonder that the people don't trust their elected officials.

Last year Representative Barb Haake from Mounds View gave up her seat in frustration saying that she was "tried of checking her conscience at the door."

And speaking of tired, can you imagine what it's going to be like over there in the next 4 days?

Get out the midnight oil. Legislators will be passing bill that they haven't read and haven't debated.

And they'll be doing this with little sleep and lots of stress from being told to "check their conscience at the door"

This is how we want our legislature run?

Think about this-If there is no tax bill this year:

- There will be no Rebate and over $800 million dollars will be

left sitting in the bank.
- Your property taxes will go **up** instead of going down by an average of 15%.
- And healthcare providers? The provider tax will, according to current law, automatically go **up** by over a third.

The more I think about it the more disturbed I get.

But can we still do it?

Yes. It can be done. All that is needed is for everyone to understand that they have a chance to be part of a historical session.

But it is now in the hands of the Senate and the House.

If they have the **courage** to make decisions for the **people** we can still do it.

Again, this opportunity may not come again for a long time-if ever-and to let it go would be irresponsible.

We have a choice.

Why wouldn't we choose a win-win?

A winning session.

And a summer full of graduations, weddings, picnics, ballgames, golf, boating, swimming, and family reunions.

Rest assured, I don't want to even **think** about the alternative.

And I don't think the **people** do either.

Thank you.

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Event: Governor Ventura speaks during National Law Enforcement Memorial Week

Good afternoon.



I am glad I can be here today to take part in this very special service honoring law enforcement officials who lost their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve.

Let's reflect for a moment on the sacrifices made by the men and women who work in law enforcement.

They do a job that is not desired by many, and they do it with great pride. They spend their lives protecting the lives of their fellow citizens. And doing their job well sometimes, tragically, leads to the loss of their own lives. That is truly the ultimate sacrifice.

And let's not forget the families of officers. They also make a daily sacrifice. Every time their loved one goes to work, they are faced with the knowledge that it might be the last time they say goodbye.

So today, let's take a moment and think of the nine-thousand men and women who faithfully serve the citizens of Minnesota, and who work every day to preserve our freedoms, civil rights, property, and our lives.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Canada announcement
Consulate General's Office, Minneapolis
May 8, 2001



Consul General Thompson gives the governor a First Nations People "Talking Stick" that symbolizes protocol. The protocol states: "One who had it in their possession would be afforded the respect and attention of those present to allow him or her to speak without interruption." A gift the governor will utilize.-

Thank you, Susan, for that warm welcome.

It's an honor to be here - and a real privilege to be the first governor in Minnesota history to visit the Canadian Consulate - it is well overdue.

Minnesota and Canada have been friends and partners for a very long time, and it was just the right thing to do.

I've also come here to announce that I will be leading a second Business Development Mission to Canada from July 10th through the 13th. Last September, we accomplished a lot during my visit to Saskatoon:

- We signed major agreements on business, education and economic issues.
- And we announced a $10 million contract extension for Minnesota-based ADC Telecommunications.

Canada is Minnesota's number one trading partner - and one visit just isn't enough. Think about it:

- Last year, Minnesota's manufactured exports to Canada grew by nearly 12 percent - to more than $2.4 billion dollars. That's more than the ***total*** amount sold to our next three largest trading partners **combined.**
- Canada is also a big investor in Minnesota's economy. Nearly 20,000 Minnesotans are employed at companies at least partly owned by Canadians.
- Our strong connections reap benefits for both Minnesota and Canada - in trade, foreign investment, and in the thousands of visitors who cross our borders every day.

  I'm told that nearly half a million Canadians visit Minnesota each year. That makes Minnesota the 10th most popular U.S. destination for Canadian travelers.

  I'd like to see if we might kick that up a notch!

As governor, I'm always looking for ways to strengthen Minnesota's position as a world competitor - and in the case of Canada, it's clear that some of our greatest opportunities lie closest to home.

So our mission in July will include visits to Toronto and Winnipeg, and will focus on three objectives:

- increasing exports
- promoting Minnesota's tourism industry
- and attracting Canadian partners and investments.
- In Toronto, we'll have the opportunity to promote Minnesota's information technology industry at the COMDEX trade show and conference.

And based on Minnesota's strong export performance last year, we'll be at the right place at the right time. Much of our growth in exports to Canada came from the sales of electronic equipment and computer components.

- We'll also encourage tour operators in both cities to develop more group tours to Minnesota. We'd like to see more of our Canadian friends.

Minnesota and Canada share more than just a border. We share common ideals, common principles and common goals. It's no wonder we do so much business with each other.

We also share Consul General Thompson - whom I'm happy to say will be joining us in Canada this July.

Susan - thanks again for the privilege of being *first*

- and thank you for everything you've done to reinforce and strengthen the relationship between Minnesota and Canada. You've been a good neighbor - Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
World Trade Week
Minneapolis Convention Center
May 8, 2001

(Introduced by Nancy Libersky, Chair of WTW event)

Thank you, Nancy. I'm honored to be here today to celebrate the achievements of these award winners.

- Harmony Enterprises
- Estrada Foods
- and Skyline Displays deserve our recognition - and our gratitude -- because ***their*** success is also ***our*** success.

Companies like these are making Minnesota a world-class competitor in the global economy. I applaud you -- and I promise you -- that I am doing everything I can to expand export opportunities for all Minnesota businesses - around the world.

- That's why I went to Japan my first year in office - and to Canada and Mexico last year. We made new friends, opened many doors and strengthened our relationships with key trading partners.
- And our timing couldn't have been better. We released annual export statistics today that show Minnesota's manufactured exports to Canada grew by nearly 12 percent last year. - to more than $2.4 ***billion.***

  And Mexico moved into the ranks of Minnesota's top ten markets, taking over eighth place with exports of nearly $400 million.

- So this year - I'm not ***about*** to slow down.

This morning, at the Canadian consulate, I announced I'll be heading back to Canada in July on a tourism and trade mission to Winnipeg and Toronto. Let's face it -- we export more to Canada than we do

to our next three largest markets ***combined*** -- and one visit just isn't enough. Canada is also our good friend and neighbor - we need to see more of each other.

I'd like to thank Consul General Susan Thompson for inviting me to the consulate for what turned out to be an historic event. No governor of Minnesota had ever been there before!

Consul General - ***thank you*** for the privilege of being first.

- But Canada is not the only country I'll be visiting this year.

Today's conference is focused on a nation that will soon be joining the U.S., Canada, and more than a hundred other nations in the World Trade Organization - the People's Republic of China.

We've all heard a lot about China lately. But I will tell you this:

- ***Nothing*** has happened in recent weeks to change my mind about the importance of free and open trade relations with China.
- Now more than ever - I am convinced we MUST work to strengthen our ties with China in all areas, including trade. It's a simple fact - you can't build a relationship with anyone until you get the time - and ***take*** the time - to know them.
- China is Minnesota's third largest trading partner.

  Minnesota's exports to China increased more than 88 percent over the past five years -- and they are projected to grow significantly in the years to come.

  China ***is*** the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st century. And we ***will*** be going to China this fall.

Finally - a reminder to Minnesota companies who would like to join us in China. There are still a few openings available, so be sure to pick up an application today.

Now - we're honored to have with us members of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, or the CCPIT, led by Vice Chairman Wan. The CCPIT will be hosting our mission to China in November.

Vice Chairman Wan is a senior economist who has held a number of distinguished positions in the Chinese government. He has served as the Vice Chairman of the CCPIT and the China Chamber of International Commerce since February 2000. Please join me in

welcoming Vice Chairman Wan.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Smart Growth Workshop
Earl Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center
May 3, 2001

Thank you and let me also welcome you to the north metro. As you know, this part of the region holds special meaning for me. It was just up the road, in Brooklyn Park, that I took my first step into public office as mayor. So for me, it is quite fitting that we are holding this historic event in the north metro.

When I was mayor, I was not a fan of the Metropolitan Council. I felt that they spent their time telling us what to do, rather than helping us to build a better community. When I appointed Ted Mondale, I directed him to change the focus of the Council, to be a positive, problem solving agency, that helped our mayors, city councils and citizens plan for the future.

I believe that this initiative is historic because it represents a fundamental shift in how the Council and government does its business.

This afternoon, by working together, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference in the future and prosperity of this region.

Historically, this process has been dictated from the top, down.

But today, we're here to head in a new direction, because we're asking the question, first, of you as regional stakeholders, and then later of citizens in their communities, how do we want our region and communities to grow?

Through this process, we are taking hold of our own future and deciding what kind of communities we want. To me, this is Smart Growth.

As part of my Big Plan for Healthy, Vital Communities, the Metropolitan Council, with generous support from the McKnight

Foundation, will invite public input about how they want to grow in the future. The Council will invest financial and urban design resources to make growth models a reality, and help build communities that work.

Today's workshop kicks-off a series of 10 public workshops to design development models for regional growth as communities plan for future growth of 500,000 more people living in the metro area in the next 20 years.

I'm proud to say that the Twin Cities' region is one of the best places for growth in the future. This too has been a matter of choice. Development policies and smart public investments in development have helped trigger a renaissance in our cities, even as other urban areas have suffered decline.

As recent census findings for population growth show, smart government investments have made a difference. Public investments have restored confidence and jump-started private investment as older cities and suburbs redevelop and newer cities seek to build community in their neighborhoods.

You can see evidence of this in Brooklyn Center, a Smart Growth Twin Cities' Opportunity Site, as the central business district prepares to redevelop for the future.

Future success in our region means building on smart development choices. To remain competitive, the region must further invest in smart growth and make good choices in development, transportation, affordable housing and the environment.

I want to thank you for your dedication, and for committing half of your day to help make smart growth real in our community.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Tour Expo
Famous Dave's, Minneapolis
May 2, 2001

Thanks for inviting me to be here today.

I am well aware that Minnesota competes with destinations around the world for the dollars spent by U.S. travelers ... and there's nothing I love more than a competition!

From day one, I was made aware of the value of the tourism dollar to Minnesota's economy ... and I've been happy to promote our tourism industry ever since.

I'm also aware that it's folks like you that help bring this big business to our state. 8.3 billion in annual sales: WE APPRECIATE IT!

We take our fun seriously, as the "Tourism Governor" I support investing in our state's tourism industry, so groups like yours keep coming back.

There really are terrific opportunities for group travel in Minnesota:

Mall of America *(Not everyone thought the Mall was a good idea)*

Great museums *(talk a bit about your recent visit to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts)*

Theater *(Next to New York, Minnesota leads the nation in theatre)*

Professional sports teams *(The Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, Vikings and the first-place Twins)*

Historic sites *like Fort Snelling, Itasca State Park and the Split Rock Lighthouse.*

Recreational activities: *(Golf, hiking, bird-watching, fishing, boating and my favorite, jetskiing)*

Too bad that you just missed out on snowmobiling and icefishing!

And most of all - the beauty of our state *(Four seasons, 10,000 lakes, the Mississippi River and hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine nature)*

Take the ideas of things you've seen today and BRING BACK EVEN MORE GROUPS.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism is always willing to help with tour planning needs -- right, Jon?

Thanks again for working with me to sell Minnesota as a great destination!

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Governor Jesse Ventura
St. Paul Chamber of Commerce
Prom Center, Oakdale
April 26, 2001

Good afternoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about my budget.

Have you ever seen anything like it? I mean this is the mother of all budget debates.

I've been taking so much abuse lately that I'm sure tomorrow's headlines will say "Ventura's budget cause of higher flood crests."

But seriously, I am very proud of my budget. And very proud of the debate that it has caused.

My budget seeks tax cuts, very dramatic reforms in tax policy and limits spending.

And, as a result, it is very, very controversial.

But then you didn't elect me to be timid.

I believe I was elected because I am not afraid to swing for the fences.

The great Brooklyn Dodger, Duke Snider once said,

"Always swing hard, just in case they throw the ball where you're swinging."

My budget swings hard at some long-standing problems in our tax and education policy and if the legislature has the courage to step up to the plate and swing hard - this can be a homerun for all of us.

But change can be scary. And change this big tends to bring out the protectors of the status quo.

But I must continue to emphasize that the status quo will not get you

A 14% reduction in your residential property taxes.

A 15% reduction in commercial and industrial property taxes?

A 28% reduction in property taxes on apartments.

A 23% reduction in property taxes for Farmers. In total my budget will give $63 million in relief to Minnesota farmers - and that relief is not just for one year - that relief will go on year after year.

Yes, it is true, that as a result of tax reform, some cities may choose to raise taxes to make up for loss of state aids - but the fact is - with the state taking over education finance, property taxes will go down so much that even if cities raise their portion, you will still experience double digit property tax reductions.

While it is true that St. Paul's Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) will be eliminated, and that the city may choose to raise their levy to make up for the loss, the total net impact to St. Paul taxpayers is that they will pay over $29 million dollars less in property taxes under my plan than they did before.

Remember that: $29 million less!!!!

And in addition cities and counties will no longer pay sales tax on their purchases.

Now, some of the more vocal legislators will tell you that my tax relief, tax reform and limiting spending plan is not supported by the people.

They base their conclusions on the daily protests and demonstrations that are taking place at the capitol.

But I base my conclusions, not on the few hundred that can take time from their jobs to come to the capitol and hold signs, but on the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who are tired of paying money into a system that is, not only unfair, but in many cases in need of fixing.

And if you believe recent polls there is a lot more support out there for this budget than many thought.

I also base my conclusions on more objective observers like the

recent Wall Street Journal story that quoted national tax experts calling my plan "textbook" tax reform that "meets most precepts for sound tax policy"

And that "tax policy" reform is very important to me.

Let me be clear, if the legislature takes the politically expedient path and simply passes band aid tax relief with spending increases that are not tied to responsible and measurable outcomes - I guarantee you that I will be very difficult to deal with come the end of session.

I am already the most "veto overridden" Governor in the history of the state so I will not be afraid to go for a veto record that will stand for a long time.

I will not let politics keep me from doing the right thing.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my budget seeks to build a tax system for the future.

A tax system that recognizes that we are fast becoming a service-driven economy.

And while it may not be popular, it is good public policy to expand the sales tax to services in order to make our system more stable and predictable than it is now.

Believe me if we don't do it now - we will have to in the future.

In fact, many states are finding that the only way to stabilize revenue and keep budgets balanced is to rely more on the sales tax.

Recently the Governor of New Hampshire proposed a sales tax to partially substitute for property taxes to fund education.

In Tennessee the legislature is working to close an $800 million dollar budget gap partly by putting a new gross receipts tax on service industries.

In North Carolina a commission appointed to study tax efficiency and tax loopholes recommended a comprehensive study of extending the sales tax to services as a way to close their projected budget deficit.

And in Montana their State Senate has passed a bill to create a sales tax and eliminate the income tax.

The bottom line is my plan is forward thinking, fair and good tax

policy.

My plan to take over 100% of the general education formula by eliminating the state mandated property tax levy makes the property tax a truly local tax.

And I want to make it clear that this shift will not weaken local control, nor is it an indication that the state is planning to increase its involvement in the local decision-making process of school districts.

I continue to believe that local elected officials have the responsibility for insuring student achievement and successful schools.

No school district will have any less authority under our proposal than they do today.

I can't emphasize enough that eliminating the general education property tax levy not only offers an historic opportunity to dramatically reduce taxes on your businesses and other properties, but will also allow for greater competitiveness.

We cannot let this opportunity pass.

But if we spend too much it will.

Both the senate and the house are proposing much larger increases in education and other funding than I have recommended.

They are making these promises even though economists continue to warn that our economy is slowing at a faster rate and that state revenue projections are not as rosy as once thought.

Be assured I will be cautious.

But that leaves me standing alone and often portrayed as the "evil" governor.

But if people are fair and judge me by my actions and my honest concerns, they will know that I care very much about people's needs and about young people and their access to quality education.

If my current budget proposal is enacted, the state average general, and special education revenue per student will have increased by 15.6% from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2003.

Even when referendum revenue is excluded, the state average

general and special education revenue per student will have increased by 12.8% during that span.

But the bottom line is that growth in both revenue measures will have exceeded the rate of inflation over the four-year period.

And that's a fact.

But even after the largest increase in K-12 education spending in a decade took effect in 1999, I began to hear cries of help from educators, superintendents and school boards that it wasn't enough.

But based on my experience this past two years I don't think we could ever have enough money.

We must be careful.

In my first two years as Governor the price of government went up 13%. For the good of the state I will not let that continue.

I have told my commissioners that we must limit government. Of course we should continue to provide the services that people want and demand - but we should not try to solve every problem with new money.

As a parent, a taxpayer and governor I challenge the legislature and everyone who cares, to not only seek more money, but to seek reforms:

Reforms like Campaign Finance and legislative reform.

Reforms like expanding the sales tax.

Like reforming education finance. By having the state pay for the entire K12 general education formula, let's make the school financing system more understandable and ensure that future state education expenditures will reach the schools instead of being swallowed up in other local property tax relief.

Reforming the way we pay teachers.

Currently, teachers are paid the same amount of money no matter how good they are at their job or how much in demand they are.

During good economic times this leaves school administrators at a terrible disadvantage when trying to retain or recruit teachers in high demand areas like math, technology and science.

Under our current system the only solution to this problem is to raise all teachers' salaries regardless of their value to the system.

Recently we have been hearing complaints of teacher shortages. To address this problem, and perhaps the problem of increased labor costs, why not reform the way we license teachers?

I know that being a teacher requires special training and expertise. But so what if that special training and expertise is developed during a previous career?

We should recognize that experience, license it, and use it.

To address the problem of splitting communities during salary negotiations why don't we require that school districts and their employees become "essential employees" and agree to binding arbitration, rather than a strike, to solve a negotiation impasse?

What could be fairer and what could be in the better interest of the kids?

When school boards are negotiating contracts with teachers the state requires them to have completed a contract settlement by a certain date or the state will reduce their revenue.

This is crazy.

As a result many districts will settle under pressure and agree to contracts for more money than they have in their budgets.

This law must be changed.

In addition, to help reduce the tension created by bargaining every two years, I am proposing that teachers and school districts be allowed to negotiate five-year contracts.

Finally, school boards, teachers, administrators and lawmakers should work together to pass a bill that is currently moving through the legislature. This bill would prevent school districts from entering into contracts with district employees that would leave their budgets structurally unbalanced.

These are legitimate and necessary reforms for a system that is broken. Broken beyond repair? No way. It is a good system but a system that needs updating.

Like our overall tax system, it is a good system that can and should be better.

But it will only be better if we reform before we spend.

Let's face it, it takes courage to change. It takes courage to look twenty years down the road instead of just around the corner.

There is less than four weeks left in this session.

This is no time for a drag bunt.

It's time for the legislature and the people to step up to the plate and swing hard.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Finnish Global Software Program
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi law offices
Minneapolis
April 26, 2001

Welcome to Minnesota!

Maybe I should say "welcome HOME to Minnesota" - because so many Scandinavians live here that it might just *feel* like home to you.

In fact, some of the thousands of Scandinavians that live here may be related to you.

I'm told that we've got more Finns living here than any other state but Michigan.

Around the turn of the last century - Finnish Americans were the largest foreign-born group in northeastern Minnesota. They came to farm, to work in the timber industry and to operate the iron ore mines that became the backbone of the U.S. steel industry.

You should be proud of your country's contribution to the moral fiber and work ethic of our Minnesota people.

In the United States Minnesota has a reputation for *nice* people. Well, that *Minnesota Nice* label surely must have some roots in our Scandinavian heritage.

So you should feel right at home.

Minnesota is about the same size as Finland - and of course we have the same mild winters that you do!

But Minnesota has much more to offer - including the best climate to grow your high-tech business.

So I'm pleased to welcome you to this conference - and I thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell the REST of our story. Because Minnesota is a great place to live and do business.

I don't say that just because I'm the governor. I'm also a big "fan" of Minnesota. I tout our quality of life, beautiful amenities and bright, hard-working people everywhere I go.

And I'm not alone.

Last year, Minnesota was ranked the "Most Livable State" in the country for the fourth year in a row by an independent research company. The rankings are based on qualities such as health, income, housing, education and recreational facilities.

So it's no secret: Minnesota has much to be proud of, and I can think of three reasons WHY:

- Our ENTREPRENEURIAL spirit,
- Our DIVERSE economy, and
- The RESILIENCY of our people.

We have a wonderful spirit and rich history of entrepreneurship in Minnesota.

- We spawned the medical device industry
- Performed the first open-heart surgery,
- Invented the blood pump and the cardiac pacemaker.
- Believe it or not, we even invented water skiing and manufactured the first rollerblades.

Minnesota is home to such industries as agribusiness, medical technologies, telecommunications, and a growing travel and tourism industry.

We build boats and bake bread and *write books*.

We mine ore and make sugar.

Our economy is diverse and it is strong.

Strong because it is supported by a well - educated, hard - working and resilient workforce.

In this tight labor market, many companies are finding these workers OUTSIDE the Twin Cities metropolitan area -- international companies like Entronix, based here in Minneapolis.

Entronix expanded into northeastern Minnesota and now has a thriving business in Eveleth. 200 people work at its electronics re-manufacturing plant, repairing - among other things -- Nokia cell phones.

Minnesota IS a great state for business - but you should know that we're not resting on our laurels. We are here to build on them. We are here to prepare for the future.

And what is the future of the business economy?

You know the answer as well as I do -- it's an economy with a rebuilt foundation of technology, globalization and a highly skilled, highly motivated workforce.

And technology is huge.

Because technology and our ability to provide telecommunication services plays a very large role in keeping business and industry competitive in our global economy.

We have a plan - a VISION for Minnesota that includes:

- Healthy, Vital Communities
- Self-sufficient People
- Service - NOT Systems
- And Minnesota: World Competitor

It's called the Big Plan because it doesn't look one - or even five - but TWENTY years into the future.

And it contains many initiatives designed to ensure that Minnesota is not left on the wrong side of the "digital divide" -

- That our workforce is prepared for the high-skilled jobs of today - AND tomorrow,
- That long-term infrastructure needs - transportation, telecommunications, housing - are met to keep Minnesota attractive for business growth,
- That EVERYONE in Minnesota has access to State-of-the-art technology - and high speed Internet service.
- And finally that we have a tax system that fair to business and encourages investment in Minnesota.

So you are in friendly territory. You might even think of it as "coming home".

And if things go the way I hope they do over the next two days -

some of you WILL be calling Minnesota home very soon.

You would be making the right decision.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Earth Day remarks
St. Catherine College, St. Paul
April 23, 2001

Good Morning.

It's a pleasure to be at the College of St. Catherine.

I am very proud of our colleges and universities and especially proud of the contributions of private colleges to the quality of higher education in Minnesota.

However, I am even more proud of St. Catherine College.

Why?

Because two of my most valuable cabinet members, Commissioner Karen Studders and Commissioner Pam Wheelock graduated from this fine institution.

And believe me I know it must be a fine college because these are two very smart women. As smart as they are they must not have partied too much while they were here.

But seriously, I am happy to be here today to celebrate Earth Day.

We've made great progress since the first Earth Day in 1970.

Government, citizens and business have all worked hard and the results have been good. Many of the factories and power plants that were such major sources of pollution 31 years ago are still there, but thanks to a lot of hard work, they produce far less pollution.

Many wild animal populations have made remarkable

Comebacks as the environment has become cleaner.

Bald eagles, once practically gone from Minnesota, now nest in

growing numbers in our state.

Personally, I've always been interested in the environment. I even got my start in politics because of an environmental issue.

Have we solved all our environmental problems?

Not by a long shot.

But now our biggest environmental problems come from our own actions, our own choices, rather than pollution produced by big business.

- One of these problems is damage to lakes and rivers from our use of lawn, garden and agricultural chemicals.

It's a simple fact: chemicals applied to the ground eventually end up in our rivers and lakes. The solution isn't rocket science: each of us can cut down the chemicals we use.

We can choose types of plants that need fewer chemicals. We can try organic growing methods.

And we can work with farmers to help them develop good land conservation practices. In fact, I want to use this opportunity to urge the legislature to work with me to continue funding one of the better land conservation projects in the state.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is taking thousands of acres of farmland out of production along the Minnesota River and will eventually help solve the terrible pollution problems in what was once a beautiful and pristine waterway.

- Another problem is electricity.

Every time we buy another gadget and plug it in, we use more electricity. And the more electricity a power plant has to make, the more it pollutes the air.

As we address the need for more power it is important that we don't overlook alternative sources of energy available from the sun and the wind.

- Of course, one of today's biggest environmental problems is those things we all drove in here today.

How many of you came here today by bus?

How many rode a bicycle?

How many walked?

Good for those that didn't drive a car to school today but the fact is many of us - including myself - came by car.

Everywhere we go our communities are designed around cars. Why? Because it's convenient, that's why.

But we all know that there's a price to pay for this convenience.

In the four years from 1994 to 1998, our state population grew four percent. The number of miles we drive increased 11 percent.

There are four million registered vehicles in Minnesota now and the number continues to grow. We - you and I and everyone else - drive more than 51 BILLION miles in this state every year!

Cars are a lot cleaner today than they were in 1970, but even catalytic converters can't overcome the air pollutants coming out of four million cars driving 51 billion miles. Cars and trucks emit half the pollutants that form smog or ozone, and levels of smog are on the rise in the Twin Cities.

Cars and trucks are also a major source of air pollutants that cause cancer and other serious health problems. Yet, incredibly there are legislators and citizens that fight me every inch of the way when I want to build light rail, a commuter rail system and busways to help cut down on the congestion on our roads.

Ultimately though, we can't point fingers at someone else for these air problems. We're the ones using more and more electricity every year, making our power plants burn more fuel and emit more air pollution.

You're probably wondering what I'm going to **tell** you to do.

I'm not going to **tell** you to do anything. That's not my role. And I'm not going to ban cars or make you get a horse.

But I am going to **ask** you to make some changes. I'm going to ask you to take responsibility for the air you breathe.

- You can carpool or use transit or bike once a week. I'll do my part by supporting public transit, whether light rail, buses or commuter rail.
- You can choose low-sulfur and other less-polluting fuels

whenever possible.

- You can choose a fuel-efficient car when you're ready to buy a new car.
- If you've got kids, you can teach them that energy - gasoline, electricity and natural gas - is not like a bottomless cup of coffee. Our energy supply doesn't get refilled every time we use it. Teach them that the energy your family uses has its benefits - and that it also has its costs.

Teach them well, so that when another 30 years goes by, we can all sit and listen to the 61st Earth Day speeches and know we've accomplished something truly worthwhile.

Thank you and happy spring.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Winona Chamber of Commerce
Winona, April 19, 2001

Good afternoon.

But today I also want to talk to you about important legislative issues that, unlike the floodwaters, could have a very positive effect on your lives here in Winona.

My staff, my cabinet and I worked hard on my budget.

We talked to a lot of people.

I personally traveled to over fifty different communities over eighteen months seeking input from the people.

I heard from the people that they wanted tax reform, tax relief, rebates and limited spending.

And that is what I am proposing.

My budget seeks tax cuts and very dramatic reforms in tax policy and education finance.

And, as a result, it is very, very controversial.

But then you didn't elect me to be timid.

I believe I was elected because I am not afraid to swing for the fences.

The great Brooklyn Dodger, Duke Snider once said,

"Always swing hard, just in case they throw the ball where you're swinging."

My budget swings hard at some long-standing problems in our tax and education policy and if the legislature has the courage to step up

to the plate and swing hardthis can be a homerun for all of us.

But change can be scary. And change this big tends to bring out the protectors of the status quo.

Since I announced this plan in January I have been informed that my budget is nothing less than a "disaster," that the "sky is falling," and that this budget will inflict "great pain" on all Minnesotans.

(I'm not sure how much pain others are feeling but I do know that lots of pain has been inflicted on me.)

In fact last week, in a guest editorial published in the Winona Daily News, the writer stated that my tax plan is "ill fitted" for Greater Minnesota.

I don't understand the writer's logic.

Do the people of Winona not want:

- A 14% reduction in their property taxes?
- Do farmers in Southeastern Minnesota not want a 23% reduction in their property taxes? In total my budget will give $63 million in relief to Minnesota farmersand that relief is not just for one yearthat relief will go on year after year.
- Is a 15% reduction in commercial and industrial property taxes "ill fitting" to Winona area businesses?
- Does a 28% reduction in property taxes on apartments sound good to Winona area developers and building contractors?
- How about affordable housing advocates? I happen to believe that lower property tax rates will spur the building of affordable homes and apartment units.

Yes, it is true, that as a result of tax reform, some cities may choose to raise taxes to make up for loss of state aidsbut the fact iswith the state taking over education finance, property taxes will go down so much that *even if cities raise their portion, you will still experience double digit property tax reductions.*

In fact, Contrary to what the person wrote in the Winona Daily News, under my plan the City of Winona's Local Government Aid (LGA) will not go down.

While it is true that Winona's Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) will be eliminated, and that the city may choose to raise their levy to make up for the loss, **the total net impact to Winona taxpayers is that they will pay over $2.5 million dollars**

less in property taxes under my plan than they did before.

Remember that: $2.5 million less!!!!

When someone comes along and tells you different don't believe them. Tell them to call up my Commissioner of Revenue if they don't believe you.

Now, some of the more vocal legislators will tell you that my tax relief, tax reform and limiting spending plan is not supported by the people.

They base their conclusions on the daily protests and demonstrations that are taking place at the capitol.

But I base my conclusions, not on the few hundred that can take time from their jobs to come to the capitol and hold signs, but on the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who are tired of paying money into a system that is broken.

And if you believe recent polls there is a lot more support out there for this budget than many thought.

I also base my conclusions on more objective observers like the recent Wall Street Journal story that quoted national tax experts calling my plan "textbook" tax reform that "meets most precepts for sound tax policy"

And that "tax policy" reform is very important to me.

Let me be clear, if the legislature takes the politically expedient path and simply passes band aid tax relief with large spending increases that are not tied to responsible and measurable outcomesI guarantee you that I will be very difficult to deal with come the end of session.

I am already the most "veto overridden" Governor in the history of the state so I will not be afraid to go for a veto record that will stand for a long time.

I will not let politics keep me from doing the right thing.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my budget seeks to build a tax system for the future.

A tax system that recognizes that we are fast becoming a service-driven economy.

And while it may not be **popular**, it **is** good public policy to expand

the sales tax to services in order to make our system more stable and predictable than it is now.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my overall tax relief and tax reform planand even the sales tax base expansion itselfis fairer to lower-income households than our current tax laws.

And finally, I will not let political pressures interfere with sound judgement when it comes to education spending.

Both the senate and the house have been promising the protesters and the demonstrators much larger increases in education funding.

They are making these promises even though economists continue to warn that our economy is slowing at a faster rate and that state revenue projections are not as rosy as once thought.

Be assured ***I*** will be cautious.

But that leaves me standing alone and often portrayed as the "evil" governor.

But if people are fair and judge me by my actions and my honest concerns, they will know that I care very much about people's needs and about young people and their access to quality education.

If my current budget proposal is enacted, the state average general, and special education revenue per student will have increased by 15.6% from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2003.

Even when referendum revenue is excluded, the state average general and special education revenue per student will have increased by 12.8% during that span.

But the bottom line is that growth in both revenue measures will have exceeded the rate of inflation over the four-year period.

And that's a fact.

But even after the largest increase in K-12 education spending in a decade took effect in 1999, I began to hear cries of help from educators, superintendents and school boards that it wasn't enough.

I began to ask why it wasn't.

To my amazement, asking that question was immediately regarded by many in the education field as inappropriate, and in fact, almost

treasonous.

Like other Governor's before me, I started out my term with the best of intentions. I pledged to work hard to make our education system the best it could be. I wanted to work hard for education because I love kids and I want them to have the best possible chance to be successful when they go out into the world as adults.

I still want these things for our kids but what I am finding is that if a person questions the amount of taxpayer dollars going into education, many will immediately label them as traitors to the cause.

As a parent, a taxpayer and governor I challenge the legislature and everyone who cares, to not **only** seek more money, but to engage in a serious dialogue on these reforms:

- By having the state pay for the entire K12 general education formula, let's make the school financing system more understandable and ensure that future state education expenditures will reach the schools instead of being swallowed up in other local property tax relief.
- To address the problems of recruiting and retaining an education workforce let's change the way we pay teachers.

Currently, teachers are paid the same amount of money no matter how good they are at their job or how much in demand they are.

During good economic times this leaves school administrators at a terrible disadvantage when trying to retain or recruit teachers in high demand areas like math, technology and science.

Under our current system the only solution to this problem is to raise all teachers' salaries regardless of their value to the system.

- Recently we have been hearing complaints of teacher shortages. To address this problem, and perhaps the problem of increased labor costs, why not change the way we license teachers?

Again, whenever I bring this up I am called uninformed, unrealistic and just plain naove.

Well, I don't think so.

I know that being a teacher requires special training and expertise. But so what if that special training and expertise is developed during a previous career?

We should recognize that experience, license it, and use it.

- To address the problem of splitting communities during salary negotiations why don't we require that school districts and their employees become "essential employees" and agree to binding arbitration, rather than a strike, to solve a negotiation impasse?

What could be fairer and what could be in the better interest of the kids?

- When school boards are negotiating contracts with teachers the state requires them to have completed a contract settlement by a certain date or the state will reduce their revenue.

This is crazy.

As a result many districts will settle under pressure and agree to contracts for more money than they have in their budgets.

This law must be changed.

In addition, to help reduce the tension created by bargaining every two years, I am proposing that teachers and school districts be allowed to negotiate five-year contracts.

- Finally, school boards, teachers, administrators and lawmakers should work together to pass a bill that is currently moving through the legislature. This bill would prevent school districts from entering into contracts with district employees that would leave their budgets structurally unbalanced.

These are legitimate and necessary reforms for a system that is broken. Broken beyond repair? No way. It is a good system but a system that needs updating.

Like our overall tax system, it is a good system that can and should be better.

But it will only be better if we reform **before** we spend.

Let's face it, it takes courage to change. It takes courage to look twenty years down the road instead of just around the corner.

There is just over four weeks left in this session.

This is no time for a drag bunt.

It's time for the legislature to step up to the plate and swing hard.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Moorhead Chamber of Commerce
Concordia College, April 12, 2001

Good afternoon.

But today I also want to talk to you about important legislative issues that, unlike the floodwaters, could have a very positive effect on your lives here in Moorhead.

My staff, my cabinet and I worked hard on my budget.

We talked to a lot of people.

I personally traveled to over fifty different communities over eighteen months seeking input from the people.

I heard from the people that they wanted tax reform, tax relief, rebates and limited spending.

And that is what I am proposing.

My budget seeks tax cuts and very dramatic reforms in tax policy and education finance.

And, as a result, it is very, very controversial.

But then you didn't elect me to be timid.

I believe I was elected because I am not afraid to swing for the fences.

The great Brooklyn Dodger, Duke Snider once said,

"Always swing hard, just in case they throw the ball where you're swinging."

My budget swings hard at some long-standing problems in our tax and education policy and if the legislature has the courage to step up

to the plate and swing hardthis can be a homerun for all of us.

This budget can be a homerun for:

- People who go to work everyday and open the front door of their own shops.
- For people who have to write their own checks to the County Treasurer every May and October.
- For people who when they retire don't want to be property taxed out of their homes.
- For people who run shops on Main Street and are concerned about losing business to phantom Internet sellers.
- For people who own farms, businesses, and recreational property, but are paying a disproportionate amount of local education costs.
- For people who work hard every day but still can't afford to own a home.
- And finally, for people who are tired of government growing faster than their own paychecks.

- This tax plan is for all these people.

But change can be scary. And change this big tends to bring out the protectors of the status quo.

Since I announced this plan in January I have been informed that my budget is nothing less than a "disaster," that the "sky is falling," and that this budget will inflict "great pain" on all Minnesotans.

(I'm not sure how much pain others are feeling but I do know that lots of pain has been inflicted on me.)

But, be assured, I am not backing down. I believe that the people want:

- A 14% reduction in their property taxes.
- I believe that farmers want a 23% reduction in their property taxes. In total my budget will give $63 million in relief to farmersand that relief is not just for one yearthat relief will go on year after year.
- I believe that businesses want a 15% reduction in commercial and industrial property taxes.
- I believe that developers and building contractors want a 28% reduction in property taxes on apartments.
- And finally, I believe that the people want local control.

Yes, it is true that, as a result of tax reform, some cities may choose to raise taxes to make up for loss of state aidsbut the fact iswith the state taking over education finance, property taxes will go down so much that *even if cities raise their portion, you will still experience double digit property tax reductions.*

This budget will do all of this and limit the growth of government at the same time.

Now, some of the more vocal legislators will tell you that my tax relief, tax reform and limiting spending plan is not supported by the people.

They base their conclusions on the daily protests and demonstrations that are taking place at the capitol.

But I base my conclusions, not on the few hundred that can take time from their jobs to come to the capitol and hold signs, but on the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who are tired of paying money into a system that is broken.

I base my conclusions on more objective observers like the recent Wall Street Journal story that quoted national tax experts exclaiming our plan as "textbook" tax reform that "meets most precepts for sound tax policy"

And that "tax policy" reform is very important to me.

Let me be clear, if the legislature takes the politically expedient path and simply passes band aid tax relief with large spending increases that are not tied to responsible and measurable outcomesI guarantee you that I will be very difficult to deal with come the end of session.

I am already the most "veto overridden" Governor in the history of the state so I will not be afraid to go for a veto record that will stand for a long time.

I will not let politics keep me from doing the right thing.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my budget seeks to build a tax system for the future.

A tax system that recognizes that we are fast becoming a service-driven economy.

And while it may not be **popular**, it **is** good public policy to expand the sales tax to services in order to make our system more stable and predictable than it is now.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my overall tax relief and tax reform planand even the sales tax base expansion itselfis fairer to lower-income households than our current tax laws.

And finally, I will not let political pressures interfere with sound judgement when it comes to education spending.

Both the senate and the house have been promising the protesters and the demonstrators much larger increases in education funding.

They are making these promises even though economists continue to warn that our economy is slowing at a faster rate and that state revenue projections are not as rosy as once thought.

Be assured ***I*** will be cautious.

But that leaves me standing alone and often portrayed as the "evil" governor.

But if people are fair and judge me by my actions and my honest concerns, they will know that I care very much about people's needs and about young people and their access to quality education.

Recently representatives of Education Minnesota have been using scare tactics and lies to discredit my support for education.

The problem is they don't tell you everything.

They leave out important information like if my current budget proposal is enacted, the state average general and special education revenue per student will have increased by 15.6% from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal year 2003.

Even when referendum revenue is excluded, the state average general and special education revenue per student will have increased by 12.8% during that span.

But the bottom line is that growth in both revenue measures will have exceeded the rate of inflation over the four-year period.

And that's a fact.

But even after the largest increase in K-12 education spending in a decade took effect in 1999, I began to hear cries of help from educators, superintendents and school boards that it wasn't enough.

I began to ask why it wasn't.

To my amazement, asking that question was immediately regarded by many in the education field as inappropriate, and in fact, almost treasonous.

Like other Governor's before me, I started out my term with the best of intentions. I pledged to work hard to make our education system the best it could be. I wanted to work hard for education because I love kids and I want them to have the best possible chance to be successful when they go out into the world as adults.

I still want these things for our kids but what I am finding is that if a person questions the amount of taxpayer dollars going into education, many will immediately label them as traitors to the cause.

As a parent, a taxpayer and governor I challenge the legislature and everyone who cares, to not **only** seek more money, but to engage in a serious dialogue on these reforms:

- By having the state pay for the entire K12 general education formula, let's make the school financing system more understandable and ensure that future state education expenditures will reach the schools instead of being swallowed up in other local property tax relief.
- To address the problems of recruiting and retaining an education workforce let's change the way we pay teachers.

Currently, teachers are paid the same amount of money no matter how good they are at their job or how much in demand they are.

During good economic times this leaves school administrators at a terrible disadvantage when trying to retain or recruit teachers in high demand areas like math, technology and science.

Under our current system the only solution to this problem is to raise all teachers' salaries regardless of their value to the system.

Recently we have been hearing complaints of teacher shortages. To address this problem, and perhaps the problem of increased labor costs, why not change the way we license teachers?

Again, whenever I bring this up I am called uninformed, unrealistic and just plain naove.

Well, I don't think so.

I know that being a teacher requires special training and expertise.

But so what if that special training and expertise is developed during a previous career?

We should recognize that experience, license it, and use it.

- To address the problem of splitting communities during salary negotiations why don't we require that school districts and their employees become "essential employees" and agree to binding arbitration, rather than a strike, to solve a negotiation impasse?

What could be fairer and what could be in the better interest of the kids?

- When school boards are negotiating contracts with teachers the state requires them to have completed a contract settlement by a certain date or the state will reduce their revenue.

This is crazy.

As a result many districts will settle under pressure and agree to contracts for more money than they have in their budgets.

This law must be changed.

In addition, to help reduce the tension created by bargaining every two years, I am proposing that teachers and school districts be allowed to negotiate five-year contracts.

- Finally, school boards, teachers, administrators and lawmakers should work together to pass a bill that is currently moving through the legislature. This bill would prevent school districts from entering into contracts with district employees that would leave their budgets structurally unbalanced.

These are legitimate and necessary reforms for a system that is broken. Broken beyond repair? No way. It is a good system but a system that needs updating.

Like our overall tax system, it is a good system that can and should be better.

But it will only be better if we reform **before** we spend.

Let's face it, it takes courage to change. It takes courage to look twenty years down the road instead of just around the corner.

There is about six weeks left in this session.

This is no time for a drag bunt.

It's time for the legislature to step up to the plate and swing hard.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Willmar Chamber of Commerce
Willmar, April 5, 2001

Good afternoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about my budget.

My staff, my cabinet and I worked hard on this budget.

We talked to a lot of people.

I personally traveled to over fifty different communities over eighteen months seeking input from the people.

Last year and early this year my commissioner of Revenue Matt Smith held town meetings all over the state seeking input before we made final budget decisions.

We even did a survey.

And I can assure you that what we heard from the people is what is in our budget.

Tax reform, tax relief, rebates and limited spending.

This budget is a well-rounded package that is very bold.

It seeks very dramatic reforms in tax policy and education finance.

And, as a result, it is very, very controversial.

But then you didn't elect me to be timid.

I believe I was elected because I am not afraid to swing for the fences.

The great Brooklyn Dodger, Duke Snider once said,

"Always swing hard, just in case they throw the ball where you're swinging."

My budget swings hard at some long-standing problems in our tax and education policy and if the legislature has the courage to step up to the plate and swing hard, this can be a homerun for all of us.

This budget can be a homerun for:

People who go to work everyday and open the front door of their own shops.

For people who have to write their own checks to the County Treasurer every May and October.

For people who when they retire don't want to be property taxed out of their homes.

For people who run shops on Main Street and are concerned about losing business to phantom internet sellers.

For people who own farms, businesses, and recreational property, but are paying a disproportionate amount of local education costs.

For people who work hard every day but still can't afford to own a home.

And finally, for people who are tired of government growing faster than their own paychecks.

This tax plan is for all these people.

But change can be scary. And change this big tends to bring out the protectors of the status quo.

Since I announced this plan in January I have been informed that my budget is nothing less than a "disaster," that the "sky is falling," and that this budget will inflict "great pain" on all Minnesotans.

(I'm not sure how much pain others are feeling but I do know that lots of pain has been inflicted on me.)

But, be assured, I am not backing down. I believe that the people want:

A 14% reduction in their property taxes.

I believe that farmers want a 23% reduction in their property taxes.

I believe that businesses want a 15% reduction in commercial and industrial property taxes.

I believe that developers and building contractors want a 28% reduction in property taxes on apartments.

And finally, I believe that the people want local control.

This budget will do all of this and limit the growth of government at the same time.

Now, some of the more vocal legislators will tell you that my tax relief, tax reform and limiting spending plan is not supported by the people.

They base their conclusions on the daily protests and demonstrations that are taking place at the capitol.

But I base my conclusions, not on the few hundred that can take time from their jobs to come to the capitol and hold signs, but on the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who are tired of paying money into a system that is broken.

I base my conclusions on more objective observers like the recent Wall Street Journal story that quoted national tax experts exclaiming our plan as "textbook" tax reform that "meets most precepts for sound tax policy."

And that "tax policy" reform is very important to me.

Let me be clear, if the legislature takes the politically expedient path and simply passes band aid tax relief with large spending increases that are not tied to responsible and measurable outcomes, I guarantee you that I will be very difficult to deal with come the end of session.

I am already the most "veto overridden" Governor in the history of the state so I will not be afraid to go for a veto record that will stand for a long time.

I will not let politics keep me from doing the right thing.

I will not lose sight of the fact that my budget seeks to build a tax system for the future.

A tax system that recognizes that we are fast becoming a service-driven economy.

And while it may not be **popular**, it **is** good public policy to expand the sales tax to services in order to make our system more stable and predictable than it is now.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
KMSP-TV Education Forum remarks
St. Louis Park
March 21, 2001

Introductory remarks by Governor Ventura

(Actual comments may vary from written text)

Good morning. I'm very glad to be here today.

The presence of Lt. Governor Schunk by my side should remind everyone that I value public education so much I chose a teacher for my running mate.

I am also glad to have at my side my education Commissioner, Christine Jax.

Today I want to talk about the concerns and I have about education funding and the ideas I have for reform.

We added a tremendous amount of new money to education two years ago, and now I want to see what we got for it.

That's called "Accountability."

The single biggest concern I have is salary negotiations with teachers. It is disturbing when school districts end up with contracts that provide more money than they have in their budgets.

Common sense says you don't count your chickens until they've hatched.

That's why I support legislation by Senator Scheevel and Representative Mark Buesgens that would require the budgets of school districts to be structurally balanced.

Another concern I have is being misrepresented.

I *never* said, "Teachers are lining their pockets." That statement was a figment of some copy editor's imagination.

Besides, Mae Schunk would give me a sharp elbow in the ribs if I ever said anything like that.

What I actually said in that speech was that "Teachers are generally under-paid and under-appreciated."

Another concern: I AM NOT CUTTING EDUCATION FUNDING! I AM PROPOSING AN INCREASE!

My budget for 2002-03 will increase education spending by nearly a half billion dollars.

And finally, this debate should not be only about money. Too often the debate centers on little kids who are manipulated by interest groups to play the victims in a budget debate.

Yes this debate is about money, but it is also about reform.

Reforming the way we pay teachers by promoting alternative pay structures to reward excellent teachers and allow schools to compete with the private sector for good teachers.

Reforming our accountability standards by developing a continuous improvement plan to determine how well schools are working and to make sure that academic and financial information is more accessible to parents and taxpayers.

And reforming the way we license teachers by promoting new ways to get licenses for qualified people who would make excellent fully licensed teachers.

But my biggest funding idea for public schools is my proposal to reform property taxes so that the state pays 100% of basic district revenue.

I have not heard a better solution to this problem than to remove property wealth from the equation.

I hope as today's discussion continues that we'll find more things to agree on and that we at least get a clear unfiltered view of each other's perspectives.

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Speech
National Agriculture Day
St. Paul, March 20, 2001

I'd like to welcome Minnesota's farm broadcasters from all over the state to St. Paul. Thanks for allowing me to share "National Agriculture Day" with you.

Today is a day to celebrate Minnesota agriculture's contributions to our economy and to our way of life.

Minnesota agriculture competes today on a fiercely competitive world stage, where costs and efficiencies will make or break you. As Governor, I want to make sure that our farmers can compete in today's global economy.

I've said before that government can't do much about the price of crops, but we can improve Minnesota's agricultural competitiveness by reducing input costs.

My tax reform plan does just that. I'm talking about $64 million of PERMANENT tax relief per year, including property taxes and sales taxes, for Minnesota's farmers. Compare this to past years when the state has given ONE-TIME disaster payments of about that same amount. My plan provides relief from year to year, regardless of the weather, prices or other factors you nor I can control.

Farmers would be among the biggest winners in my tax reform proposal. My plan reduces property taxes on farmland by $62 million and makes all farmland exempt from the state general fund levy and voter-approved operating levies. Farmers would benefit from an average reduction of 23 percent for farm homesteads and 18 percent for farm nonhomestead land.

My sales tax reform plan gives farmers $2.7 million back in the form of new exemptions on farm machinery and other equipment, and lowers the sales tax rate from 6.5 percent to 6

percent.

As you know, I am proposing to bring the tax system in line with today's service-driven economy. This means that many services that are not taxes today would be taxed. But for the farm sector, my plan provides exemptions for services used in agriculture production.

I need you help in getting the word out about this proposal and how it can help farmers. Farmers need to be telling their legislators that Minnesota farmers want and need PERMANENT relief NOW.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Minnesota Business Day at the Capitol
St. Paul, March 14, 2001

Good afternoon.

I'm glad to get the opportunity to talk to business people today.

The reason I'm glad is that recently some big Fortune 500 businesses in Minnesota were complaining about my tax plan.

I couldn't quite figure it out. For years they have complained about high income and property taxes and now I come along and substantially cut them and still, executives from these big companies complain.

Well, the fact is I didn't design this tax plan for Fortune 500 companies.

I designed it for the people.

People like you who own businesses.

People who go to work everyday and open the front door of their own shops.

People who have to write their own checks to the County Treasurer every May and October.

People who when they retire don't want to be property taxed out of their homes.

People who run shops on Main Street and are concerned about losing business to phantom internet sellers.

People who own farms, businesses, and recreational property, but are paying a disproportionate amount of local education costs.

People who work hard every day but still can't afford to own a home.

And finally, for people who are tired of government growing faster than their own paychecks.

This tax plan is for all these people.

But change can be scary. And change this big tends to bring out the protectors of the status quo.

Since I announced this plan in January I have been informed that my budget is nothing less than a "disaster," that the "sky is falling," and that this budget will inflict "great pain" on all Minnesotans.

My goodness, if you listen to the protestors you'd think that if my budget passed I might have to call out the National Guard and declare Marshall Law.

But in fact, much of the extreme reaction you hear is the fear of change.

Objective observers are fairer.

Just last week, in the Wall Street Journal, the executive director of the Federation of Tax Collectors said that my tax plan "meets most precepts for sound tax policy you'd find in text books."

My administration worked hard on this plan and it shows.

However, it is more a "Package" than a plan.

It's major tax reform <u>with</u> major tax relief.

It's a package that reworks our tax system so it is fairer to you as taxpayers and makes Minnesota business more competitive in local <u>and</u> world markets.

It's a package that must be viewed in all its parts.

It's like a fine woolen sweater that if you pull out a thread or two the sweater will fall apart.

The two major threads in this plan are limited spending and the expansion of the sales tax.

If you spend more than my recommended budget, the sweater will lose an arm.

If you don't expand the sales tax to services, the sweater loses another arm.

And then you have a vest.

A vest that:

- **Will not cover you during the cold of an economic recession,**
- **Will not reduce commercial industrial property taxes,**
- **Will not reduce farm and timberland property taxes,**
- **Will not reduce property tax for senior citizens,**
- **Will not bring greater accountability to local government, and**
- **Will not reduce the cost of government to the people of Minnesota.**

This is a bold budget that will provide a secure tax foundation in the new economy but also a responsible budget that will not allow government to grow faster than the rest of the economy.

<u>And let me emphasize that this budget does not cut our education budgets.</u>

This budget will allow for an increase of about $56 million dollars over the $1.2 billion the University of Minnesota gets every biennium and $47 million for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on top of their current state appropriation of 1.1 billion per biennium.

Also, I am proposing an additional $30 million dollars in financial aid targeted to part time and non-traditional students who don't enjoy the same access and affordability our current financial aid system provides to other students.

In addition, I am proposing $14 million dollars specifically to attract potential teachers and health care workers to higher education and training, and $4 million more for tuition for National Guard members.

This budget allows <u>total</u> revenues available to K-12 school districts (over 8 billion dollars in 2001) to increase by 2.6% in 2002 and by 3.7% over the 2002 base.

A base, by the way, that contains the $1.3 billion dollar

increase from the last biennium!

This budget asks a lot of K-12 education. I know that.

But I think it is about time that we ask the tough questions.

When you watch school district administrators and teachers manipulating little kids to appear as victims of Governor Ventura's budget, ask yourself this question:

Why doesn't someone point the finger back at the administrators and ask them why they spent more money on labor contracts than they had in their budgets?

Did the Administrators have these kids in mind when they settled labor contracts at rates higher than their budgets could support?

Last night on the TV news suburban teachers and administrators portrayed me as the "evil governor."

Let me say this to the parents of those kids:

Please do not let these people use your kids as pawns in this budget debate.

When the school district sends home a letter saying the sky is falling, keep in mind that the sky started falling last year when your district settled its labor contracts without regard to how much money they had in the bank.

The TV cameras love to capture the sad faces of the kids who according to the teachers and administrators will suffer because of the "Ventura Budget" but how about putting the camera in their faces and ask this:

<u>Are you as administrators using these kids as cover for your own management decisions?</u>

Let's face it, managing schools like governing a state is a tough job that requires tough decisions.

I have made some tough decisions on this budget and I have yet to hear anything that would cause me to walk away from this budget.

As taxpayers I hope you will join me in asking your legislators how much longer are we going to let this go on.

It's time to correct a big problem. Its time to require school districts to have structurally balanced budgets.

There is a bill in the legislature that would do just that. I am in full support of it, and I hope you will support it also.

Enough is enough. It's time for honesty and accountability. And for sure, it's time for adults to stand up and debate these issues without using innocent kids as pawns in a game of deception.

Finally, let's keep debating this budget. Because contrary to the conventional wisdom this budget is not dead. But as we debate it keep thinking about that sweater.

Help me keep the sweater a sweater. Because if we don't, this tax package could become just another band aid, instead of a solid comprehensive tax reform that will benefit our state's main street business, farmers, senior citizens and families for years to come.

Thank you.

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Speech
Metro North Chamber of Commerce
Anoka, March 12, 2001

Good morning.

I just came from the Anoka County Government Center, where I named a new judge for the 10th judicial district.

I figured, hey, as long as I'm in the neighborhood, I'll stop by the Chamber of Commerce and see what they're having for lunch.

Actually I love coming to Anoka. As I found out during my campaign, this is Ventura Country.

It seems like the people of this region think a lot like I do. You don't hear a lot of B.S. up here.

People pretty much tell it like it is. And as you might have figured out by now, that's the way I do business.

So today I'm going to talk a bit about my budget. I'll tell it like it is, not like you might have heard it from all kinds of other sources.

Today you're getting it straight from the guy who put it on the table.

Let's start with education. You've probably been hearing some pretty negative things about my education budget, most of them not true.

First of all, I'm not cutting K-12 education funding, I'm not cutting funding to the University of Minnesota and I'm not cutting funding to Minnesota State Universities.

We'll start with K-12 funding.

I'm proposing a 4-point-4 percent increase in K-12 funding for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Yes, that increase would be considered small, COMPARED to what

we've given them in the past.

And when I say "we," I'm including my administration, because in this past biennium, we put aside around one billion dollars for K-12 education.

What happened to that money?

I'm sure each district can point to something new, but I'm not seeing any earth-shaking education innovations, and I'm certainly not seeing any earth-shaking improvements in our kids' educations or test scores

I know where a lot of the money went: teacher salaries.

Here in the Anoka Hennepin district, revenues for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 went up a total of 11-point-7 percent.

Teacher salaries, according to the teacher contract, went up

10-point-99 percent.
11.7% and 10.99% are pretty close together.

That doesn't leave a lot of money for helping our kids out in the classroom, beyond paying the teachers better.

And that's fine, to a point. Teachers are generally underpaid and underappreciated.

But we've got to see better management in the districts. We're seeing countless examples of districts negotiating with money they don't have.

Sure, it's money they're counting on getting, but look what happens when they don't get it.

They're in trouble, and the first place they look for help is the good old state of Minnesota.

It comes down to this: Somebody hands you a bunch of money, you'd better spend it wisely, and you'd better be able to account for your spending.

I'm not seeing either of those things, and that's what I need to see before I'll blindly spend even more of the people's money.

I see that K-12 revenues have gone up 100-point-7 percent in the past decade or so. 100.7%!

Where do we stop, without seeing results?

Is that number going to be 200% before we know it? Not on my watch.

That's K-12. Now let's talk higher ed.

The University of Minnesota asks for more than 250-million, I budget for more than 50-million.

Does the 'U' take a hard look at itself, like I asked all my state departments to do, and find places to trim?

No. They come out and say, "tuition increases all around."

Once again, no accountability.

They don't get the money they want, they pass the problem on to the students.

That makes me the bad guy, and them the victims.

Another thing people seem to forget is that my being prudent with the peoples' money will pay off for them--literally.

It will pay off when they get their property tax bill, it will pay off when they get their rebate check and it will pay off for them when they fill out their taxes.

I'm talking about major tax relief and major tax reform.

I'm talking about cutting property taxes by 800-million dollars, with the state assuming the full cost of basic K-12 education.

Are you a farmer? You'll get a 23 percent reduction. You own apartments? A 28 percent reduction. Commercial or industrial properties? You're looking at a 15% reduction.

But that's just the beginning.

I'm planning to cut income tax by half a percent in all three tax brackets.

We'll reduce the corporate income tax.

We'll double the Working Family Credit by 2003.

We'll expand the sales tax, to make it fairer, and we'll reduce it by

half a percent.

And on top of all that, we'll continue something we started last year, reducing those outrageous fees you pay for your car tabs.

Let's see: property owners, people who earn income, people who buy things, people who drive.

I think we've got pretty much everyone covered.

When it all comes down to it, this is a responsible budget.

I'm not going to let the price of government just keep going up and up and up.

It's got to stop sometime, and that sometime is going to be right now, while I'm doing the job the people elected me to do.

I promised them I'd limit government, and I'm going to keep that promise.

I also promised them major reforms, that require some tough decisions along the way.

Right now you're hearing a lot about those tough decisions, but it's in the future where you'll really notice them.

And you'll be glad someone was looking out for your money, and your future.

Thank you.

I'll be happy to answer some questions.

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Speech
Harold Stassen memorial service
Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul, March 9, 2001

Good morning.

To the family of Governor Harold Stassen, I welcome you to this setting with great humility.

Today we are given the opportunity to honor a man of the people.

I am humbled by the incredible journey of this man's life.

At the age of 22 he was elected Dakota County Attorney.

At 31 Governor.

At 36 he made an extraordinary sacrifice. Governor Stassen resigned his position and joined the Navy. Serving until 1945 Governor Stassen was awarded six major battle stars.

I am overwhelmed by his bravery and awed by his selfless dedication to his country.

Chosen by President Roosevelt, he was a delegate to the United Nations charter conference in 1945.

He was the President of University of Pennsylvania, a candidate for President of the United States and a member of President Eisenhower's cabinet.

On behalf of the people of Minnesota I am honored to memorialize a man who gave so much of his life to the people.

For this we shall be forever grateful and will never forget.

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Speech

Growing Up Homeless remarks

Minneapolis, March 8, 2001

Reporters sometimes ask me what I have learned as governor.

Today I have learned something that troubles me deeply.

Listening to these children, who had to try to grow up without having a home, makes me sad.

Why on earth would these kids, through no fault of their own, have to be homeless?

My answer to most questions about the problems of children is usually very simple - it's up to the parents.

But here is something else I have learned -

Some early findings in the "2000 Wilder Survey of Homelessness" say 40% of all homeless adults are working.

And one out of every four is working fulltime!

25 % are working fulltime, yet they cannot afford a place to live for themselves and their families.

This is wrong!

Fulltime workers should be able to afford housing.

I know there is no simple solution to the problem of homelessness.

But one thing we can do is to address the basic problem of affordable housing.

I have made that a priority.

Affordable housing is a complex problem, so we need teamwork to

make a difference.

Government has a role, and the private sector has a role. We need to cooperate.

Here's what I think the state ought to do.

These are my legislative proposals that will help prevent homelessness by encouraging more affordable homes.

#1 - New Affordable Housing Development Initiative. A $24 million dollar effort, using TANF money, to expand the housing supply for the lowest-wage working families in the state.

#2 - Tax relief - $96 million in property tax relief. This would reduce property tax on:

- market rate apartments by 28%,
- single family unit properties by 18%,
- 2- to 3-unit properties by 4%,
- and low-income, 4d properties by 14%.

#3 - Tax reform - -

Our property tax system is unfair, out of date, and ready for reform.

My proposal would lower tax rates for rental properties, and it would eliminate the tax capacity disparities between 2&3 unit properties and 4-plus unit properties.

We have to stop punishing success, and stop discouraging investment and improvements.

More private investment that is the key to solving the affordable housing crisis.

We need more private investment in constructing new rental housing at **all** rent levels.

We need rental property owners to invest their own funds in the on-going upkeep and improvement of their existing properties.

That's why we need to lower our high rental property tax rate.

And because private money is the key to the solution, perhaps the best thing government can do is to get out of the way.

That leads to:

#4 - Streamlining Development - - removing the costly barriers and red tape that slow down the development process.

Builders and developers tell us that the process is extremely complicated and time-consuming.

As we all know, time is money.

Let's save time, and cut costs.

I would like to see every city in Minnesota work on improving their housing regulations.

But the state should take the lead and set an example.

So, I asked my Commissioner of Housing Finance, Commissioner of Administration, the Director of Minnesota Planning, and the Chair of the Metropolitan Council to look for ways we could help streamline the development process.

They looked at removing barriers we have imposed at the state level and suggested optional tools for cities to use.

The result of this effort is the **Streamlining Development Bill.**

This bill includes some of the recommendations from the "Mayor's Housing Group" convened by the Met Council, and the "Affordable Rental Housing Task Force" convened by Minnesota Planning.

We need to be more aggressive about reducing the unnecessary costs of housing, promoting alternatives to "starter castles," and simplifying the development process.

These four legislative initiatives all hang together:

- Affordable Housing Development Initiative
- Tax Relief
- Tax reform
- And Streamlined Development.

I need your support for all of them, because a comprehensive approach to affordable housing is the best approach.

We will never eliminate the need for public funding for housing.

It will never be profitable for the private sector alone - to build and own all affordable housing.

But if we can pare down the costs of the development process, then we could increase the amount of affordable housing that doesn't need public funding.

That will allow our available public funding to go further.

Let me conclude by issuing a call:

I call on your support for my affordable housing legislative package:

- the new appropriation for rental housing production;
- the property tax reform and tax relief package;
- and the Streamlining Development bill.

I call on all communities in Minnesota to welcome housing for workers - with the same enthusiasm that they welcome new jobs, businesses, and services.

And I call on business and civic leaders to weigh in on this issue.

Help the public understand the urgent need for every community to embrace the development of housing for Minnesota's workers and to remove the barriers they have built in their own communities.

Help to prevent tomorrow's children from facing the homelessness experienced by the children we heard from today.

I've often said I will be judged as governor by the how things turn out in 20 years.

I'd like to return here in 20 years, to discuss the *history* of homeless children, and how we eliminated it by creating enough affordable housing so working parents could find a decent place to live.

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Speech

Streamline sales tax proposal

Harold E. Stassen Building, March 7, 2001

Good morning. Today I am announcing the introduction of the legislation which will formally begin Minnesota's participation in the National Streamlined Sales Tax effort.

The passage of Senate File 13-25/House File 14-16 is important for Minnesota.
This is the model act being proposed and adopted by states around the country.

So far 20 states have actions pending and 2 states have already adopted this proposed language: Wyoming and Utah.

The Streamlined Sales Tax legislation is an important part of tax reform.

It provides uniform administrative and definition changes so Internet sellers can comply with state sales and use taxes.

This bill is not about taxing people for using the Internet. It is about making sure the states create a level playing field for Internet sellers and bricks-and-mortar sellers in collecting and remitting the sales tax.

It is not fair that a Minnesota business, already paying high property taxes here also has to charge our sales tax, while out-of-state sellers can now avoid it and gives themselves an automatic 6-point-5 percent price advantage.

Reforming the sales tax remains an important goal for me in this year's discussion of tax reform. I believe the sales tax is a more fair tax and so do many Minnesotans.

The stability of the sales tax and its future as a revenue source are important to Minnesota's taxpayers. If we don't fix the sales

tax, we will have to rely more and more on the property tax and income tax to fund our services or else actually cut spending dramatically.

And let's face it, holding the line on spending is tough. I know from this year's experience.

During a national debate on the Internet Tax Freedom Act, it became apparent that sales tax had dramatically changed in today's economy.

Minnesota, according to a study from the University of Tennessee, stands to lose $220 million in Fiscal Year 2003 from remote sales.

In the February forecast, we saw sales tax receipts fall 2.6%.

This is the main reason I feel so strongly about reforming the sales tax, both in what we tax (looking at the service economy) and how it can be fairly administered (the streamlined sales tax).

The sales tax is a mess and it's up to the states to do something to fix it and save it.

And I want to make sure Minnesota is one of the states leading that effort.

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Speech
Campaign Finance Reform proposal
State Office Building, March 6, 2001



Minnesota legislators from all five caucuses joined with Governor Ventura in lauching a proposal to reform state campaign finance laws: Open and Accountable Campaigns

I am very pleased to join members from all five caucuses of the legislature to announce our support for a campaign finance reform package this session.

In the 2000 elections we saw candidates, political parties, and special interest groups pour unprecedented amounts of money into our elections.

- Between 1992 and 2000, political party and caucus spending in Minnesota increased by 413% to $17.8 million dollars.
- Independent expenditures by parties and caucuses went from $308 dollars in 1996 to $2.9 million dollars in 2000.
- Independent expenditures made by outside groups is also escalating. In one 2000 legislative race, outside interest groups spent over $310,000 dollars, about 12 times a candidate's spending limit for a House seat.

This spending is just a glimpse of what we'll see in future campaign cycles. Why? Because money wins elections, buys

political power, and preserves the status quo.

We are headed down a very dangerous path. Unless serious campaign finance reform is passed this session, we can expect special interest spending to undercut candidates' campaigns and the tone of our campaigns to grow more negative and less focused on issues that matter to Minnesotans.

If we hope to re-engage citizens in our political process, we must give candidates more control over their campaigns, level the playing field between challengers and incumbents, and focus on real issues not 30-second sound-bytes.

While Minnesota is doing a lot of things right, we must address some of the flaws in our system. My Administration's goals for campaign finance reform are quite simple. I want to:

- Allow citizens a stronger voice in campaigns by doubling the amount they are able to claim as a contribution refund from the state,
- Give candidates the public money when they need it, right after the primary,
- Provide better citizen access to campaign finance information, and
- Give candidates the tools to respond to independent expenditures that are made against them in the final days of an election cycle.

Doubling the amount citizens are able to claim as a political contribution refund from $50 to $100 dollars will allow citizens to show their support for a candidate or political party. It also forces candidates to work for their public subsidy by convincing voters that they are the right person for the job.

In Minnesota, legislative and constitutional officer candidates are currently given public funds following the general election if they receive a certain percentage of the total vote in that election. This financing mechanism forces many candidates to take out loans to cover campaign expenses until after the election when they receive the public subsidy.

This is unfair to challengers since many incumbents have built-up a sizeable war chest over several election cycles. Some candidates, particularly challengers, have difficulty securing the loan even if they demonstrate a certain level of support. As a candidate for Governor, 22 banks turned me down before I was able to find one that would give me a loan.

I support changing the timing of these direct payments to candidates. Minnesota candidates who sign a spending limit agreement, raise the appropriate level of qualifying contributions, and have the nomination of a major political party should receive their public subsidies after the primary election.

This common sense change will help level the playing field by putting viable challengers in a position to run competitive campaigns.

It's also time for state campaign finance information to be available on-line to provide easy and timely citizen access to this information.

Campaign expenditures and contributions are public information. But in many states, including Minnesota, this data is not available on the Internet. Putting this information on-line will help bring government back to the people by giving them the tools they need to made good decisions about who they want representing them.

That one's a no-brainer.

Finally, empowering candidates to respond to independent expenditures that are made against them in the final weeks of an election is critical.

The current barrage of negative and misleading ads and mailings in the final week or two of the election is unfair to the candidates and to the people they seek to represent.

Candidates in competitive races are taken by surprise and most often don't have the time or resources to respond to inaccurate claims.

We must give candidates the ability to respond to these independent expenditures and to set the record straight. Then voters will have all the facts and can make an informed choice at the ballot box.

By working with the legislature to accomplish these goals, we will ensure that any person interested in elected office can run a competitive campaign and be judged on the issues rather than the size of his or her pocketbook. And if we take the next step by going to a single legislative session every two years, we will free candidates from running non-stop campaigns and let them focus on issues that matter to their constituents.

I look forward to signing a bill this session that will encourage more open and accountable campaigns. Now I'll turn it over to Sen. Hottinger and Rep. Haas, two key supporters in the Legislature, to say a few words.

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Speech
China trade mission announcement
Minneapolis Institute of Arts, March 2, 2001

Thank you, Evan (Maurer, Director, Minneapolis Art Institute). And thank you for the picture-perfect backdrop for today's announcement!

Last March, I was invited to Washington to testify before Congress in support of China's bid for permanent normal trade relations and entrance into the World Trade Organization.

Now when the President of the United States asks for my help on something, I'm not going to say NO. And in this case, I was very happy to oblige. Because I said it then - and I'll say it now:

- **China is the number one marketing opportunity of the 21st century.**

And with China's entry into the World Trade Organization, the Chinese market is more accessible than ever to Minnesota companies.

In light of this development it is important that we continue to build on the historical relationship between Minnesota and China. Past Minnesota Governors have worked hard to lay the groundwork of this relationship and now we have a keen opportunity to take a great leap forward.

We should not miss the opportunity.

On November 2nd, I will lead a 12-day business development mission to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

We will involve as many as 100 Minnesota business people and focus on three specific industries:

Agriculture and Processed Foods
- Information Technology
- Medical Products

Minnesota has much to offer China, and these industries represent our greatest export potential. In fact, China is so interested in our biomedical and information technology, we will be looking for opportunities to develop more technical tours to Minnesota.

China represents HUGE potential.

- It is now the state's **third largest** export destination, up from fifth place in 1998, and all the way up from 11th in 1990.
- Minnesota's exports to China increased by 88 percent in the last five years, and are now valued at nearly **$600 million** dollars.
- China is the **second largest** market for medical devices in Asia, and it's expected to grow by **10 percent** over the next three years.
- **Eighty percent** of Minnesota's exports to China are related to high-tech products.
- And the Chinese market itself in HUGE. China has a gross domestic product of more than **one trillion dollars.**

I've learned a lot about the value of trade missions since going to Japan, Canada, and Mexico. I have seen - up close - so many opportunities unfold as Minnesota businesses explore a new market or expand existing partnerships.

Our missions have allowed deals to be done.

- In Japan, Ellison Meat Company from Pipestone signed a deal that helped them cement a relationship in Japan for what we hope will be a long time to come.
- In Canada, we announced a contract extension for Minnesota-based ADC Telecommunications to the tune of $10 million dollars. Now that's what I call

STRENGTHENING A RELATIONSHIP.

- In Mexico - we met with both the outgoing AND incoming president - a GREAT start to a relationship that can only benefit us on both sides of the border.

Delkor Systems in Minneapolis signed a half-million dollar deal while we were in Mexico - something its president said MAY NOT have happened without the access our mission gave him to key decision-makers in Mexico.

Like all my other trade mission - China is all about making connections - and building relationships.

And THAT's why we're going to China.

We're going to forge NEW relationships and strengthen the connections we already have - culturally and educationally.

- The University of Minnesota still has one of the largest contingents of Chinese students in the country. And last year, China's Ministry of Education approved a joint executive MBA program with the University of China.
- We have exchange programs in our colleges and Chinese courses in our schools. Highland Park's Chinese language and culture course is the only program of its kind in the Midwest - and one of only three in the country.
- We have sister-state and sister-city relationships - and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade has an office in Minnesota - one of only three in the United States.

Minnesota's ties with China date all the way back to 1883 when railroad magnate James J. Hill's was the first to link the American Midwest with China. It was the beginning of a solid relationship we hope to strengthen even more this fall.

Thank you.

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Speech
February revenue forecast
State Capitol, February 28, 2001

For the first time in nine years, a state forecast was released today that projects fewer dollars being available than what was thought in the previous forecast.

But the good news is we were not taken by surprise. We were all aware that a slow down in our economy was coming.

This awareness allowed us to plan accordingly and as a result no major adjustments will have to be made to our budget proposal.

In fact, if our national forecasters are right, this is a very temporary slowdown and not the beginning of a prolonged downturn. The economy should improve fairly quickly and economic performance should rebound to about the same levels of growth we have recently been experiencing,

And if luck is on our side, Minnesota should do better economically than the nation as a whole.

And the timing is right--it is much less disruptive to get news of a economic slowdown when you're preparing the next two year budget--as compared to being in the middle of that two year budget.

Bottom line?

The planning that went into the development of my budget means that we can quickly bring things back into balance without sacrificing the policy goals that serve as it's foundation.

And it is these goals that I want to reinforce.

Now, more than ever, we need to admit that our economy is changing. Two major revenue sources for state government

programs are the income tax and sales tax.

We're now expecting that income tax revenues will fall by 2.0%, but the sales tax falls by 2.6%.

We need to protect the stability of the sales tax by broadening base to include services.

Is this controversial?

Of course, no meaningful change in policy is accomplished easily. But to quote Margaret Thatcher "Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by traffic from both sides."

We have to recognize that increasingly we're becoming a service sector economy and if we don't acknowledge that in our tax policy we'll have to rely even more strongly on less fair taxes, specifically income taxes and property taxes.

Let me remind you that my budget is a package and that I also support reductions in income and property tax burdens, making our system more fair, more understandable and our state more competitive.

I believe this may be the last chance for us to do this in the foreseeable future, maybe even my lifetime. Now is the time to set the course for the future, to consider difficult, but important agenda items.

That, after all, is why we're elected to office, to safeguard the long-term interests of Minnesotans not to enact the expedient to curry favor with interest groups.

Within the next couple of days I will develop the specific adjustments to my budget that, in light of this forecast, are required to keep it balanced.

As I said, given the flexibility I built into my budget earlier these adjustments will not be difficult. Be assured that I will submit adjustments to keep it balanced through 2005, and I will continue to recommend prudent increases in the budget reserve as a safeguard for future adjustments.

Finally, let me add this: I just came from the National Governor's Association Meeting in Washington D.C. where I spoke with many fellow governors.

Without exception, I heard that as governors it is important that we be leaders in proposing long term solutions to funding of state government. That we resist crafting budgets that satisfy short term interests and only serve to further complicate an already complicated tax system.

And most importantly, I heard from many governors that Minnesota's effort to update our sales tax system and streamline its administration, is a model for the rest of the country. But what is important is that while Minnesota could be a model--we aren't yet. As usual, we have the opportunity to be a leader, but we aren't there yet.

To rely on the property tax as the number two source of revenue to fund government in Minnesota is a prescription for furthering an unfair tax system.

As I said, now is our chance, and thankfully this latest forecast will still allow us to get it done, and we should not let this opportunity fade away.

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Speech
National Press Club
Washington, D.C. February 26, 2001

Governing Without Strings Attached

It's good to be back.

It was just about two years ago that I stood at this podium.

A lot of controversy has gone over the dam since then.

But it still feels good.

Thanks for inviting me back.

I'm not going to talk long today. I've got some prepared remarks here that I'll start with, but I would rather spend most of my time answering your questions.

You see, as I said, I've been through a lot in the last two years and I'm not sure which controversy it is that interests you the most.

And since there is no way I can cover them all, I'll just let you ask me about them.

You probably are interested in the Playboy interview.

Or maybe it's the two books I've written.

How about whether I'm running for re-election? Or maybe you're interested in whether I plan to run for President in 2004?

Interested in my relationship with media jackals?

How about the XFL?

Maybe you're interested in my cameo appearance on the Young

and the Restless.

Oh, and don't forget Summer Slam--that caused a little controversy.

I do tend to keep busy. But not too busy to govern.

You know, a lot of people wondered whether this Tripartisan Government in Minnesota would work.

But I think it is working very well.

Last year at my urging the legislature passed, and we broke ground for the first light rail system in Minnesota.

And we've been working real hard to sell the State of Minnesota. In fact, in the last two years tourism in Minnesota has increased and is now a $10 billion dollar industry.

Also in the last two years we have reduced taxes in Minnesota by over $2 billion dollars.

And we have sent sales tax rebates back to citizens that amounted to almost $2 billion dollars. (In fact, I thought I might suggest the rebate strategy to President Bush.)

And then we have been working hard on future initiatives.

I say 'we' because I have a great cabinet and you know what they say about 'only being as good as the people around you.'

Well, I have very talented people around me. And we've been working on things like:

- Cutting-edge tax reform that would adapt Minnesota's tax system to the new economy.
- Property tax relief for farmers, senior citizens and businesses.
- Reforming the way we pay teachers and seeking accountability for tax dollars spent on education.
- Health care for all children.
- Telecommunications reform.
- Workforce development, and
- Campaign finance reform.

Yet there are those who are skeptical.

I don't know about you, but since I became governor I haven't

noticed that our state's stature among other states has been reduced.

It's probably not very often that a Minnesota governor is invited to spend a day with Harvard University economists and then to speak at the Kennedy School of Government.

I'm sure it's been a while since a Minnesota governor was invited to lecture at the Nixon Library, Georgetown University, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Carleton, the Naval Academy and West Point.

Although I'm not your typical governor, I am proud of these invitations and I try to represent my state well.

Can you think of the last time a Minnesota governor was invited to spend the night at the White House with a president who was not of his party?

Or the last time a Minnesota governor was asked to advise the president-elect of another party on world trade?

Can you think of the last time a governor was elected with 37% of the vote but has had job approval ratings consistently in the 70% range?

But I think it is important to point out that while many may think that this attention is a result of the 'celebrity' factor, it probably is more about the fact that a third party won a governor's race.

And it may also have to do with my straightforward style.

And maybe the success is partly about the fact that I have not had a fundraiser since I was sworn into office.

See, no strings attached.

It's great.

Of course I get criticized for making money on weekends. I'm an entertainer and have been all my life and so occasionally I will make a few dollars entertaining on the weekends.

I can't wait until the next time a farmer is elected Governor of Minnesota. Can you imagine the uproar when the farmer governor goes home for the weekend and sells his or her corn crop to the local elevator?

Oh my god! The farmer governor is making money while in office. Doesn't he know that being governor is a full-time job?

I wonder what my critics would say if I was traveling around every weekend raising money for my campaign chest? That would be okay, I'm sure.

No thanks. I don't take bribes.

In fact I recommend it to all politicians.

You sleep well. And you don't have to go to those

God-awful fundraisers, eat those little wieners and pretend you are aware of some lobbyist's problem with an amendment to a bill that you've never heard of.

And you know what? Having no strings attached is so great that if I run for re-election I will promise the people of Minnesota that I will not actively raise a dime.

The people of Minnesota will know my record. If they approve, they will re-elect me. If not, they won't.

Win or lose, my conscience will be clear.

In fact, that's why I'm having so much fun right now. I don't have to check with anybody before I make a decision.

I especially don't have to check with my caucus leader.

We need more independent leaders who don't have to check their conscience at the caucus room door.

Finally, as one of two independent governors in the United States, I want to leave you with one last thought about our current political system.

The following is a quote from a book:

"The two party system has given this country the war of Lyndon Johnson, the Watergate of Nixon, and the incompetence of Carter. Saying we should keep the two party system because it is working is like saying the Titanic voyage was a success because a few people survived on life rafts."

The person who said that is quite outspoken, known to ruffle the

feathers of conventional politicans, and could not care less if he offends anyone with his opinions. The media loves him because he's always good for a provocative quote, he's an author of more than one book, and lately he's taken to writing poetry.

The person who made that very provocative statement is Eugene J. McCarthy.

A book that contains this quote was written by another unconventional politician who could not care less if he offends anyone with his opinions and whose quotes are sought after by the media.

The book is *Do I Stand Alone?* and the author is Jesse Ventura.

I put that quote in my book, not to demean the presidents mentioned, but because I respect Gene McCarthy and share his view that while this is a great country, we can change and we can do better.

In the last two years I have experienced and learned a lot. But the most important thing that I have learned is this.

I do not stand alone.

There are many people who stand with me. I meet them daily. They are so nice and so encouraging.

They tell me to keep on givin' em hell.

And rest assured, I will.

Thank you.

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Speech
University of Minnesota, 150 years
Capitol Rotunda

Good morning.

I want to thank you for inviting me here today.

I am especially thankful because if you believed everything you read in the newspapers these days, you'd probably think that I don't care about the University of Minnesota.

Well, if you believe that you'd be wrong.

While I may have a different vision for its future than others, I am extremely proud of the University of Minnesota.

The University represents everything great about Minnesota. The U's competitiveness, its creative genius, its diversity, and its excellent academics are all huge assets to the State of Minnesota.

For this reason I am proud to present to you this proclamation.

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Speech
Land O' Lakes annual meeting
Minneapolis Convention Center

Thank you, Pete.

And thanks to Land O Lakes for allowing me to join you today.

Let me welcome the visitors in the audience to Minnesota.

How do you like this balmy weather?

Did you know that ice fishing is a huge tourist attraction here in Minnesota? Well it is, so I hope you all get a chance to do some ice fishing before you go home.

Seriously, let me extend a "Happy 80th Anniversary" to Land O Lakes, a company that for all of those 80 years has been a vital contributor to the Minnesota economy.

Congratulations on your long record of service to family-based agriculture and on your tradition of success in agriculture.

Minnesota is proud to be the home of a farmer-owned let me repeat those key word **farmer owned** enterprise that is not only among the nation's leading dairy companies, but an overall leader in agriculture.

What is especially important to *me* is Land O Lake's commitment to Minnesota.

Your recently-announced purchase of the Kraft cheese plant in Melrose demonstrates that you're committed to the Midwest Dairy Industry, and to Minnesota's dairy families in particular.

Your efforts will send a positive ripple through Minnesota's agricultural economy.

And, I don't have to tell you; the agricultural economy could use it.

This is a difficult time for farmers. Just last week we got the news that farm income was down again last year.

The Ventura Administration is committed to seeing Minnesota's dairy industry continue to thrive. But there is little that state government can do about the price of milk.

What we **CAN** do is reduce some of the costs dairy producers face, encourage reinvestment in the dairy industry, and examine our regulatory activities that impact the dairy industry.

My tax reform proposal will substantially reduce property taxes for all Minnesota's farmers.

It will reduce farm homestead property taxes by an average of 23% and farmland and timberland property taxes by 18%.

In total it will reduce the overall burden on agricultural property tax by $62 million dollars.

In addition, I have directed my commissioners, not just my Agriculture Commissioner, but all of the leaders of state agencies who touch the dairy industry, to examine their activities and ensure me that we are not standing in the way of progress in the dairy industry.

Finally, I am also committed to working with our federal partners to ensure that markets are open around the world to our agriculture products, and that agriculture policies are reformed to reflect today's economy.

Last year I testified about the unfairness of milk marketing orders and the dairy compact system. I know that some of you maybe benefit from this federal system, but Minnesota doesn't. I want to see a level playing field for ALL of agriculture, starting with dairy.

In the future I will do what I can, but I need your help.

Government cannot work alone to solve the problems facing agriculture. I need your leadership in helping reform federal policies that put many farmers at a disadvantage.

Minnesota's dairy industry is an extremely important engine of the State of Minnesota, and I want to see dairy thrive.

If Minnesota's dairy sector were a single company, it would be a

Fortune 500 company, supporting 54,000 jobs and amounting to 19 percent of Minnesota's overall agriculture activity.

That is an economic sector worth fighting for.

Thank you for inviting me here today.

Have a great meeting, and let me know how the fishing is if you are able to get out on the ice.

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Speech
Working Together conference
Radisson Hotel, February 13, 2001

I'm here today to talk about the crisis in affordable housing, and not just what I can do about it, but what we can do by working together. First of all I would like to ask for your support for some of my key legislative proposals, because the rental property industry would be a big winner.

The problem of affordable housing is really very simple: there's not enough of it.

The reason for that is very simple too: they're not building enough of it.

Back in the 1970s builders created about 66-thousand units of rental housing in the Twin Cities area.

We produced about the same number in the 1980s.

But in the 1990s, that dropped very sharply to about 21-thousand units.

This dramatic decrease occurred in every rent level.

At the same time the population of the Twin Cities grew rapidly, including a significant number of immigrants and refugees.

As a result, Minnesota has the 3rd lowest vacancy rate of any state, and the Twin Cities metro area has the 3rd lowest vacancy rate of any major metropolitan area.

One of the big truths I have learned as governor is how Newton's Law applies to everything: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Everything is connected.

A lack of affordable housing has a lot of reactions in some very important areas:

Without an affordable place to live, businesses can't attract workers. RESULT: slower economic growth

- Without an affordable place to live, poor families keep moving from place to place. RESULT: their children keep changing schools and fall behind
- Without an affordable place to live, families don't have the stability to improve their lives. RESULT: stagnation on welfare, low aspirations, unhealthy lifestyles.

Just as the problems associated with affordable housing are interconnected, so too must we provide an interconnected solution.

That means government has a role, and the private sector has a role. We need each other.

My legislative proposals concerning affordable housing are considered the most comprehensive approach to the problem in years.

#1 New Affordable Housing Development Initiative. A $24 million dollar effort, using TANF money, to expand the housing supply for the lowest-wage working families in the state.

#2 Tax relief. $96 million in property tax relief. This would reduce property tax on:

- market rate apartments by 28%,
- single family unit properties by 18%,
- 2- to 3-unit properties by 4%,
- and low-income, 4d properties by 14%.

#3 tax reform

Our property tax system is unfair, out of date, and ready for reform.

My proposal would lower tax rates for rental properties, and it would eliminate the tax capacity disparities between 2&3 unit properties and 4-plus unit properties.

We need to move away from punishing success and discouraging investment and improvements.

And that is the key to solving the affordable housing crisis: more

private investment.

We need more private investment in constructing new rental housing at **all** rent levels.

We need rental property owners to invest their own funds in the on-going upkeep and improvement of their existing properties.

We believe that lowering Minnesota's high rental property tax rate is crucial for this.

And because private money is the key to the solution, perhaps the best thing government can do is to get out of the way.

That leads to:

#4 - Streamlining Development - - removing the costly barriers and red tape that slow down the development process.

Builders and developers, from both profit and non-profit sectors, tell us that the development process is extremely complicated and time-consuming.

In the development business, time is money.

The process results in add-ons that add costs.

I would like to see every city in Minnesota work on improving their housing regulations.

But I think the state needs to take the lead and set an example.

So, I asked my Commissioners of Housing Finance and Administration, the Director of Minnesota Planning, and the Chair of the Metropolitan Council to look for ways we could help streamline the development process.

They looked at removing barriers we have imposed at the state level and even provided tools for cities to use if they so choose.

The result of this effort is the **Streamlining Development Bill.**

This bill is at the revisor's office and will be introduced either this week or next.

The Streamlining Development Bill includes some of the recommendations from the "Mayor's Housing Group" convened by the Metropolitan Council, and the "Affordable Rental Housing

Task Force" convened by Minnesota Planning.

These four legislative initiatives all hang together

Affordable Housing Development Initiative

- Tax Relief
- Tax reform
- And Streamlined Development.

I need your support for all of them.

That's what I mean by "working together."

We need to be more aggressive than we have been, at both the state and local level, about reducing the unnecessary costs of housing, promoting alternatives to "starter castles," and simplifying the development process.

We will never eliminate the need for public funding to house the lowest income families and individuals in our communities.

It will never be profitable for the private sector, by itself - to build and own this type of housing.

But if we can get really serious about addressing the cost side of the development process, then we will increase the production of affordable housing that doesn't need public funding.

That will make the public funding that does exist go farther.

Together we can solve the affordable housing crisis, not just for the short term, but for the long run.

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Speech

Law Enforcement Day at the Capitol

St. Paul, February 13, 2001

Good morning. It's a privilege to have a few minutes to talk with members of law enforcement who have traveled to the Capitol today from throughout Minnesota.

Let me start by thanking all of you for the help you have given my administration over the last two years.

Last year, I stood here before you and asked for your support of a new BCA building. Thanks in large part to your letters, phone calls and testimony, our proposal for a new BCA building was successful. Construction on the new building has already begun and completion of this facility will greatly improve our services to law enforcement.

I also want to thank you for your ongoing support of the State Patrol. Our troopers rely on their good relationships with local law enforcement to be their partners in ensuring public safety. This partnership was evident when I attended the funeral of Trooper Ted Foss last summer. I'll never forget that service. It was a powerful reminder of how close-knit the law enforcement community is in Minnesota.

I believe that government should play a limited role in people's lives. However, as many of you know, I've always recognized that one appropriate role for government is to ensure the safety of its citizens.

My budget this year, although lean, reflects my continued commitment to public safety.

One of the most significant items in my budget is the CrimNet initiative. This $27 million dollar proposal will ensure the timely and accurate sharing of criminal justice information, which will not only protect the lives of citizens, but of law enforcement officers as

well. Your life may depend upon what you know, or don't know, about a suspect. CrimNet will ensure that you're well armed with good information.

My budget also contains funding to operate the BCA lab so that your evidence gets processed promptly. And I'm proposing critical funding for a trooper academy so that we have enough troopers on the road.

I will also be supporting forfeiture laws for those who choose to drink and drive and will be taking the handcuffs off law enforcement by supporting a primary seatbelt law. I believe in allowing you to enforce laws that are already on the books.

I know that there will be difficult issues facing law enforcement this session, and perhaps none more challenging than racial profiling.

There is nothing more fundamental to democracy than the faith of citizens in those who enforce our laws. Unfortunately, whether real or perceived, racial profiling threatens to undermine the confidence the public has in law enforcement.

Every one of us in this room agrees that no person should be stopped based solely on the color of their skin. Yet it does happen and we need to acknowledge that. The question is how do we stop it?

The issue of racial profiling is a statewide issue that requires leadership at all levels. However, the solution to this issue lies at the local level and must be addressed block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood and community by community.

If, in fact, an officer is engaging in this conduct, it is the responsibility of his or her superiors to address the issue through education, training, and perhaps discipline. The state has a role to play in providing model policies and training opportunities that reinforce the fact the racial profiling will not be tolerated.

I applaud the efforts of police departments in Minnesota who have proactively addressed this issue by voluntarily collecting data on traffic stops. Data collection is an important step, but will not ultimately solve the problem.

The solution lies in better education and training of law enforcement personnel so that there is no doubt what profiling is and that it will not be tolerated. In my budget I am recommending

some funding for voluntary data collection. However, if the law enforcement community wants to bring forward a proposal to educate and train law enforcement officers on racial profiling, I am willing to redirect the $280,000 dollars in my budget to get on with solving this problem.

I look forward to working with you this session to make progress on these public safety initiatives.

Thank you for all you do to keep Minnesotans safe. Have a great day at the Capitol.

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Speech

Seat belt legislation

Regions Hospital, February 7, 2001

Thank you, Terry, and thanks to Regions Hospital for allowing us to use their facility to make this announcement today.

It is appropriate, yet ironic, that we are at a hospital to make this announcement. Because, what I am going to talk about today will hopefully hurt your business.

We are here today to announce a new legislative initiative for Minnesota.

An initiative that will save lives, reduce injuries, and save on health care costs.

Today I am announcing that I have decided to support allowing law enforcement officers to make traffic stops if people are not buckled-up.

I did not come to this decision lightly.

As you know, I strongly believe in personal responsibility, and tend to discourage government involvement in personal decisions.

But when you think about it wearing a seat belt is more than a personal decision, it is also a public safety decision.

In addition, driving a vehicle on our public roadways is not a right, it is a privilege.

And that brings to mind another Ventura principle: with the privilege comes responsibility.

And too many people are not taking seriously their responsibility to buckle-up.

Using seat belts should be a no-brainer. Get in the car, check your mirrors, fasten your seat belt and then turn the key.

For a lot of reasons the wearing of a seat belt should not be optional.

The most important reason is to prevent tragedy and loss of life.

But another reason is that increase seat belt use will decrease the budget impact of health care costs both to individuals and the State of Minnesota.

As you know the budget that I proposed last month is fiscally prudent. I promised the people that I would do whatever I can to limit the cost of government and this legislative initiative is consistent with that promise.

Today, I am joined by Commissioners Weaver and Malcolm who will give their perspectives.

(Closing remarks)

I would like to recognize the two legislators who are carrying this bill in the House and Senate: Representative Harry Mares and senators Jon Hottinger and Leo Foley.

I would like to thank all of the organizations that have worked hard on this issue, many of which are represented here today.

Thank you also to the parents and families of those injured or killed in auto accidents that have the courage to speak-out on this issue.

Finally, I want to recognize all crash survivors who are sharing their personal stories and encouraging their communities to buckle-up.

We need your continued support and your voices to make this bill the law in Minnesota.

I'll open-up to any questions.

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Speech

Tribal leaders meeting

Prairie Island Indian Community Reservation
February 5, 2001

I would like to thank President Kohanen for hosting this meeting and all of the Tribal Chairs, officers and council members for the invitation to speak with you today.

This is the first time I have met with this group on a reservation. In the past we have met at the Governor's Residence and a hotel in St. Paul. I am happy to be here today. I would like to speak with you today about three topics:

- Health care disparities,
- Tourism, and
- Tribal-state partnerships.

First, health care present many difficult challenges.

Like caring for people without health insurance or who are underinsured.

Or caring for people who, because of their ethnic heritage or economic status are at greater risk for certain health problems.

Although we have proposed several initiatives to build a better health CARIE system, we know that people's health is not just determined by the systems that deliver care.

In fact, health is determined by things like environment and personal choices-NOT whether or not we have insurance coverage.

That's why you'll -see a strong dose of prevention in our plan. We believe there's wisdom in the old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Also, in our plan, you'll see an emphasis on quality. we simply

have to do a better job of measuring and improving health quality and providing consumers with better information so they can malke informed decisions about their care.

We also need to do a better job of engaging the public in our discussions about health. We need the public to help us shape our future health system AND to understand the implications of their personal choices on our health system.

And we need everyone to play a role. Government alone cannot ensure a viable health system for N4innesota. We need the cooperation of non-profit organizations, businesses, faith communities, tribal governments and INDIVIDUALS.

You won't see quick fixes in our plan. You'll see thoughtful, long-term strategies designed to ensure healthy outcomes, spend our health dollars smarter, and promote shared responsibility.

My budget invests more than 100 million dollars to improve the health of all Minnesotans and to make sure we have a health system that can serve us well over the next 50 years.

I can't think of a more important investment than that.

A recent study indicates that the rate of diabetes of American Indians in Minnesota and Wisconsin is 600% higher than whites.

The infant mortality rates in African American and American Indian populations are two to four times as high as any other racial/ethnic group in the state, and the infant mortality rate among American Indians is increasing.

That is unacceptable.

My goal is to decrease the gaps in related health disparities by 20% over the next 5 years. To that end, my agencies want to work in partnership with your tribal governments, the local public health and community-based organizations to bring those numbers down.

One of the things that I am proposing in my budget is: $500,000 in each of the next two fiscal years in formula based grants to Tribal Governments to support efforts in identifying and implementing culturally-based community interventions.

Another health issue that bothers me is the teen pregnancy rate.

Teens who become pregnant are less likely to graduate from high school, are more likely to be single parents, to live in poverty, to

have experienced sexual abuse and to depend on welfare more than women who give birth at an older age.

The children of these teenage mothers have poorer health, lower cognitive development, less education and higher rates of behavior problems than children born to older mothers.

Because there is no one solution to the teen pregnancy problem, I have proposed several different types of grants to be given to community-based organizations or tribal governments to support local efforts to address the problem.

I am asking for your cooperation and partnership to address the various healthcare disparities that exist.

Instead of the State trying to find a one size fits all solution to these problems, I want to challenge you to identify and implement whatever you believe will be the best solution in each of your communities.

Before we can enter into this partnership, we need to get this bill through the legislature. As you know, the legislature doesn't like bills that simply give grants to groups and let them figure out the best way that money should be put to use for a given problem.

The legislature likes to dictate not only who gets the money, but also exactly how it should be used.

Therefore I am asking for your assistance in
contacting your state legislators and encouraging them to pass this bill.

There are several other initiatives in my budget that address healthcare disparities and other areas I believe you may have particular concern about.

These initiatives include using educational loan forgiveness programs to attract and retain health providers in rural communities, improving the immunization rate of our kids, and attempting to reduce the suicide rate through increased suicide prevention and mental health promotion efforts.

Some people say that if you have your health you have everything. I don't know if that is completely true, but

By working together the tribes and the state can make that industry grow even more in the future.

People today want something unique, but yet they love to look to the past. Native Americans have a heritage that is unique in the world.

Many tourists today want to know more about the culture, history and art of Indians in Minnesota.

One of the issues for each of you to decide, is whether or not you wish to encourage that interest in your history and art for your communities and tribes

It is a difficult question, some people say you must market and take advantage of whatever opportunities you have and that to do so helps to keep the culture alive. Others will say that doing so is selling your heritage. This is an issue for Native Americans to decide, not state government.

If you choose to showcase some of your culture and crafts the State can work with you in publicizing what you have to offer. Some of the opportunities that exist include nature guiding, sharing your history through story telling or historical re-enactment's, selling your crafts, opening restaurants that specialize in Native American foods, or running a language immersion camp. The possibilities are endless.

I encourage you to work amongst each of your tribes, with all other Native Americans in Minnesota, the communities near your homes and the State of Minnesota to expand the possibilities of tourism in our great State.

My new director of tourism, John Edmund, is very interested in working closer with Minnesota's tribes to promote tourism. He believes that tourism is an economic development that should be available to ALL Minnesotans.

This year's Governor's Conference on Tourism, held just last month in Bloomington, focused on promoting Minnesota's historical and cultural tourism. No one has more to offer in this category than you do.

I have asked John to meet with you on this issue. He wants to partner closely with you on developing tourism in Minnesota.

You have heard me this morning talk about some of the ways that the State and Tribes can work together for the health and welfare of our citizens.

I have also encouraged you to work with the State and non-tribal communities in Minnesota in order to promote tourism for everyone's benefit.

Healthcare and tourism are not the only areas in which Tribal people and the State can work together.

I am sure that if we think about it, there are numerous additional areas in which we can form partnerships.

Today I encourage each of you to go back to your Tribal Councils and review your programs, skills and resources and come-up with ideas about how the Tribes and the State could develop partnerships that would benefit both parties.

As you know, a true partnership involves an equal exchange from both sides, it is not something to be bought. I am not interested in ideas that simply add money to the budget.

I am interested in ideas that can save both the Tribes and the State money, that improve the lives of all Minnesota citizens and that are innovative.

Imagine how the federal government would react if the State and the Tribes started jointly submitting applications for federal funds for various projects.

By working together, we may be able to bring back to Minnesota more of the money we have been sending Washington.

That money can then be used to better the lives of ALL Minnesotans.

I will direct my Commissioners to have their staffs review any such proposals that are brought to them, and I will encourage them to move forward with any that appear to be in the best interests of all parties concerned.

I will also direct my Commissioners to ask their staffs to develop any such proposals they may be aware of, and to bring them to your attention.

In closing, I would like to say miigwitch for inviting me today.

I'd be happy to answer questions.

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Speech

Earl Brown Hertiage Center remarks

Brooklyn Center, February 2, 2001

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you about my budget. Last week I delivered my budget address to the Legislature and the media in St. Paul.

I had to deliver the speech in terms they could understand so I tried to use some basic principles of physics.

However, in front of this group finance officers, lawyers and city officials this should be pretty easy for you to understand.

Remember this one?

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

When you spend one more dollar, you have to create one more dollar. And of course, if you know something about biology you know that "one more dollar" does not grow on a tree.

In two years I have learned a lot about physics and how it applies to the science of putting together a budget. I am satisfied that we applied good science to the 2002-2003 budget. It is built upon a solid foundation of:

- Tax reform and relief,
- Carefully targeted spending, and
- Initiatives designed to better address the demands of a changing economy.

It starts with following through on our commitment to the taxpayers. That means keeping our word about returning the surplus to taxpayers once we've "settled up" and closed the books for the current budget period.

We should stick to our agreement with the taxpayers and give back whatever isn't needed to fund the commitments that were made in

our original budget.

That's a good start, but it's not enough.

My tax reform and relief recommendations begin with continuing the reduction of motor vehicle tabs to $75 by 2004, a reduction in income tax rates by 0.5% in each of our brackets, and finally a recognition that we must take additional steps to prepare our state for the next century.

We have the chance to recognize important shifts in the way our economy works, and we should not squander the opportunity to adjust the tax code to improve our competitive position in this global economy.

What specifically does that mean?

It means we now have the chance, and the ***leadership*** from my office, to reduce our reliance on property taxes for state and local spending, and make our income taxes more competitive as we compete for a shrinking workforce.

How we do that is simple, but not without controversy.

We must accept that consumer spending in our economy has shifted from 60% goods and only 40% services to just the opposite, 40% goods and 60% services.

That shrinking base, and the loss of tax revenues through Internet sales, weakens the tax base and will ultimately force us to depend more on the very taxes that seem least fair, property and income, in order to balance our state and local budgets.

It's in our best long-term interests to expand the sales tax to those services. We should reduce this impact by lowering the tax rate from 6.5% to 6.0% and continue to exempt the necessities of life such as food, clothing and heating oil.

It's interesting that the Department of Revenue got a call from a taxpayer that took her dog to get groomed on her way to the hair salon.

The dog's haircut was taxed, but hers wasn't.

When you buy a suit, if it needs altering at the time you buy it, those alterations aren't taxed.

However, if you gain a few pounds and six months later you need

to let the waist out, you will then pay a sales tax.

Think about it.

Dry cleaning is taxable, but Laundromats are exempt

Tree removal is taxable, but tree planting is not.

Telephone services like call forwarding and answering services are taxable when provided by your telephone company, but not when supplied by a different company.

Let's do this one more time:

- Haircuts for people are exempt from sales tax, but haircuts for dogs are not.
- Care and lodging for horses is exempt from sales tax, but care and lodging of dogs is not.

Apparently the dogs don't have a very good lobbyist at the capitol.

This is not only crazy tax policy, it is unfair tax policy and we need to change it.

This budget is fair to **all** regions of the state of Minnesota, a principle that is very important to me in light of the situation today in several communities around Minnesota.

The overall Minnesota economy has seen record highs in the last few years, but Minnesota's non-metro economy hasn't seen the same highs.

My proposal helps make rural Minnesota more competitive by strengthening the workforce, lowering rural Minnesota's tax burden, and overhauling telecommunications laws to bring competition to rural communities.

Rest assured, rural Minnesota WINS with my tax reform proposal.

I can't do anything about the price of corn or milk or soybeans. But I can lower a farmer's cost of business.

My tax reform proposal reduces average property tax, statewide, for all properties, including a reduction of 23 percent for farm homesteads and 18 percent for non-homestead farms.

It reduces commercial/industrial property taxes by 15%, encourages investment in rental housing by reducing property taxes

on market rate apartments by 28%, and lowers classification rates on single-family properties.

But most significantly it ends the "shell game" and takes the state mandated basic cost of K-12 education off the local property tax and makes the state responsible for it.

And above all that, my budget gives all workers a pay raise by significantly reducing the amount of income tax they'll pay.

Finally, in order to accomplish this tax reform and to limit an expanding cost of government I am asking that we be very careful and target our spending to programs with the greatest need.

This limited but careful spending plan has been the topic of much discussion this past week.

A roar of protest came from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State College and University system and from K-12 education that my budget increases would cripple their systems.

Well I don't buy it. This budget demands accountability.

Last biennium K-12 education received an increase of over $1.3 billion dollars. That increase does not go away. They will get that again, in addition to the $123 million in new initiatives I am recommending in this budget.

You know it's funny, but two years ago in my first budget I recommended that K-12 get an increase of over $800 million dollars, the highest increase in a decade. But all the special interest groups still had press conferences and said it wasn't enough.

Can we ever provide enough?

That is a lot of money and before I am willing to go any further I want to know a lot more about what they are doing with the money they already have.

As for higher education President Yudof and Chancellor Anderson are complaining that they too didn't get enough money.

They say that they need more money to raise salaries of professors.

What I want to know is how can the University of Wisconsin be ranked higher among research universities while paying their professors almost ten- percent less than Minnesota pays theirs?

And more importantly, we have to understand that this whole process is about choices. If we give the University and MnSCU what they want, and if K-12 gets what they want, we are talking about a billion dollars.

In fact, it's interesting to note that if you add up all the requests that come in for this budget it comes to $8 billion dollars!

So what should we not do? Should we cut out property tax relief to farmers?

How about property tax relief for senior citizens?

As I said in the beginning of my speech, dollars do not grow on trees, they come from the fruit of someone's labor.

So we will have to make some very tough decisions.

I believe that my budget is not only responsible, but also necessary to position our state as a good place to live and do business in the future.

I assure you that I will work as hard as I can to pass this budget. I hope you, as citizens, will get involved and work just as hard.

The debate is just beginning and it should get very interesting.

Thank you.

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Speech
U of M - Duluth Budget Message
Duluth, January 24, 2001

Thank you for giving me the opportunity today to talk a little bit about my plan for the state of Minnesota.

Yesterday I delivered my budget address to the Legislature and the media in St. Paul.

I had to deliver the speech in terms they could understand so I tried to use some basic principles of physics.

Usually, I would ask how many people in the audience ever took physics, or passed the class.

I would get maybe three or four people to raise their hand.

Now I find myself in front of an audience of medical students.

I'm not going to ask you the question since I gather you ALL had to not only TAKE physics but actually PASS it to get where you are.

So let me take you back, remember Newton's Third Law of Motion?

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

When you spend one more dollar, you have to create one more dollar.

And of course, you medical students probably also know something about biology.

You know that "one more dollar" does not grow on a tree.

In two years I have learned a lot about physics and how it applies to the science of putting together a budget.

I am satisfied that we applied good science to the 2002-2003 budget because it is built upon a solid foundation of:

Tax Relief and Reform

- Carefully targeted spending, and
- Initiatives designed to address the demands of a changing economy.

It starts with following through on my commitment to the taxpayers of Minnesota.

That means keeping my word about returning the surplus to taxpayers once we have settled up and closed the books for the current budget period.

But you don't want to hear political posturing, do you?

You want to hear about what we are doing will impact you, sitting here right now, with student loans coming out of your ears and tests or boards coming down the line.

Let me get right down to it.

Why should you care about my tax plan?

Because our economy is changing and if we don't do anything about that now we will have even harder decisions down the line.

Our economy used to be more of a "goods" based economy, what does that mean?

Goods are furniture, appliances, things you can touch.

Today we are in more of a service economy, personal shoppers, financial planners, childcare, customer service.

The fact is, consumer spending has shifted from 60% goods and only 40% services to just the opposite, 40% goods and 60% services.

That shrinking base, and the loss of tax revenues through internet sales, weakens the tax base and will ultimately force us to depend more on the very taxes that seem least fair, property and income, in order to balance our state and local budgets.

It's in our best long-term interest to expand the sales tax to those services.

We should reduce this impact by lowering the tax rate from 6.5% to 6.0% and continue to exempt the necessities of life such as food, clothing and heating oil.

It's interesting that the Department of Revenue got a call from a taxpayer that took her dog to get groomed on her way to the hair salon, the dog's haircut was taxed, but hers wasn't.

When you buy a suit, if it needs altering at the time you buy it, those alterations aren't taxed. However, if you gain a couple of pounds, and six months later you need the waist let out, you then will pay sales tax.

All I ask is that you think about these things.

Dry cleaning is taxable, but Laundromats are exempt.

Tree removal is taxable, but tree planting is not.

Telephone services like call forwarding and answering services are taxable when provided by your telephone company, but not when supplied by a different company.

If you pay for the lodging or care of your dog it is taxable, but if you do the same for your horse it is not.

If you buy a membership at the White Bear Swim and Racket Club it is taxable, if you join the YMCA with the same facilities, it is not.

And one more time:

- Care and lodging for horses is exempt from tax, but care and lodging of dogs is taxable.
- Haircuts for people are exempt from tax, but haircuts for dogs are taxable.

Apparently the dogs don't have a very good lobbyist at the capitol.

This is not only crazy tax policy, it is unfair tax policy, and we need to change it.

Another relic of the past is property taxes, a concept that once was a good measure of wealth.

It's not even a local tax anymore.

After all, we tell the local units of government what they must levy for basic education services.

Then we wonder why there are only handfuls of people in the state who understand our property tax system.

Accountability starts with state government paying fully for its own spending decisions.

And don't worry, if you decide to practice medicine in a rural part of the state, which I hope many of you do, I've taken great care to make sure we help equalize resources so that not only the property-rich school districts can consider additional funding through voter approved referendums.

After all of this, even after paying for part of the cost with some local aid shifts and a statewide levy on business and cabin owners, who don't get to vote in local elections, we still provide double-digit tax relief to all classes of property.

So let's talk about the spending in my budget and how it impacts you.

I recognize President Yudof may be shocked about my budget but I believe that with a strong economy, low unemployment and growing personal income, the cost of government should not expand at an accelerated rate. His own economist agrees.

I've provided for a share of the cost for higher education faculty and staff.

In the second year of the biennium, I have provided for an increase in funding for workers in our long-term care systems. I am recommending that $16 million be appropriated for the University Medical School. And this is not just a one-time commitment. I am adding $161 million of tobacco settlement funds to the $351 million settlement funds from the last biennium for a total of $512 million for medical education in the State of Minnesota.

I am recommending an expansion of the state loan forgiveness programs to total 2.2 million dollars EVERY YEAR. What does this buy? It buys 291 placements every year. In total, the state will repaying a portion of a health care provider school loan in exchange for an obligation to practice in a targeted area or facility.

187 nurses in nursing homes, 26 rural physicians, 14 dentists, 14 rural pharmacists, 12 rural mental health providers, 38 rural health

care technicians

I hope you are all getting the message.

I am asking you to please stay and practice in Minnesota. We need you to keep our state healthy.

Its not just our people we need to stay healthy but our market as well.

The cost of health care is getting so expensive that we just can't move as fast as I'd like in making sure that every child in the state is covered by health insurance.

We have the programs, we need parents to get them signed up.

We also must work harder to keep health care affordable for everyone.

Here's one you might not read in a text book:

Do you know one of the best kept secrets in health care today?

50% of the health care costs are a direct result of our own bad behavior.

What's with that?

We overeat,

We don't exercise,

we don't eat the right foods,

we smoke,

we don't get enough sleep,

we don't stay home from work when we are sick,

we don't take care of our mental health,

we don't wear hat when its cold outside,

in short we don't listen mothers or our doctors good advice.

That's why I think we should put a renewed focus on prevention.

Prevention along with quality improvement is the key to long term

cost control, and my budget invests in both strategies.

You know I always say that you can't legislate stupidity.

We can't just pass a bill, we've got to work together.

We've got to educate our citizens and give them a reason to take care of themselves.

We will start by getting aggressive at eliminating the glaring disparities in health status within our communities of color.

In a state that prides itself as being on the cutting edge of health care, our record is intolerable.

I want to make progress in expanding coverage to children, by changing the current practice where they lose eligibility just about the time we process their enrollment.

I want to do something about health care taxes.

You medical students may not be following this now, but you will soon.

I'm proposing an elimination of the wholesale drug tax, the Gross Premium Tax, and the elimination of the scheduled 0.5% increase in the provider tax, and make sure it can't ever be increased. To do this, I'm recommending that 85 percent of the current cigarette tax be deposited directly in the Health Care Access Fund.

While I have been talking a lot about taxes, health care and higher education, I have not forgotten other areas that need attention.

I recently met with a group of LTV workers who came down to the Capitol to talk with me about their situation.

These workers, who are some of the hardest-working people I've ever met, told me that they aren't looking for a government hand-out, but for a hand-up.

They know that in the fast-changing economy of today, they need to be trained and learn new skills.

With training, and some economic development help from the state, I believe that they will persevere.

I can't stop layoffs on the Iron Range.

But I can help prepare our state's workers for the future, and this budget takes some bold moves in that direction.

My budget recognizes that if communities throughout Minnesota are going to attract good employers, they need a trained workforce.

My budget recognizes that in today's economy, workforce development IS economic development.

To help LTV workers and every other worker who wants to improve their job skills, I am recommending an education based strategy to help people help themselves.

I want the individual to choose the higher education provider that best meets their educational needs.

My budget therefore includes increases of:

$14 million dollars to expand financial aid to low income, non-traditional and part-time students, $11 Million to extend eligibility beyond four years, $5 Million to recognize increases in tuition and fees, and an additional $4 million dollars of funding to work with families and students that traditionally don't participate in higher education or are "first generation" students.

It is clear to me that in this new economy, the state with the best workforce wins.

Every one of you sitting in this audience is the key to that workforce.

I made YOU the priority in my budget, not the bureaucracy.

I started this message referring to Newton's laws; well here's a portion of Newton's FIRST LAW:

TO CHANGE THE CONSTANT VELOCITY OF AN OBJECT A FORCE IS NEEDED.

My administration is the force and the State of Minnesota's constant velocity is about to change.

Thanks for inviting me here and I wish you all the best of luck in your studies.

That goes especially for you Nancy Webster, your family is proud of you.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



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Governor Jesse Ventura
Budget Message for 2002/2003 Biennium
Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul
January 23, 2001

Good Morning.

Thank you for coming here today.

I think it is appropriate that we have come to a science museum to talk about the budget, a place where people can educate themselves about the "science" of natural phenomena.

The science museum is a place where you might find an example of Newton's basic laws of physics.

In fact, I have often observed that putting together a budget is like physics:

"For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction."

When you spend one more dollar, you have to create one more dollar. And of course if you know anything about biology, you know that *one more dollar* does not grow on a tree.

In two years I have learned a lot about physics and how it applies to the science of putting together a budget.

Two years ago I walked into the transition office with a responsibility of putting together a two-year budget before I had been sworn into office, hired a staff or appointed a single cabinet member.

But with the help of some very talented people I presented a budget that called for tax relief, meaningful investments with the windfall tobacco settlements, and very significant increases in education spending to reduce class sizes, paired with limited growth in other spending.

Yet even then, I had a sense that if I had more time I could have more fully understood the dynamics of the process and delivered more meaningful reform as well. I could have been more scientific in my approach to the budget.

Today, as I present my 2002-2003 budget, I'm much more satisfied with the *science* we applied to this budget. Because this budget is built upon a solid foundation of:

Tax reform and relief, carefully targeted spending, and initiatives designed to better address the demands of a changing economy.

It starts with following through on our commitment to the taxpayers. That means keeping our word about returning the surplus to taxpayers once we've "settled up" and closed the books for the current budget period.

You see, the budget debate we're about to enter into has real meaning. Together, the legislature, the governor, and the people, will debate priorities, roles and tax fairness and make decisions that will result in the next two-year budget.

And then, we should live by it.

We should stick to our agreement with the taxpayers and give back whatever isn't needed to fund the commitments that were made in our original budget.

That's a good start, but it's not enough.

My tax reform and relief recommendations begin with continuing the reduction of motor vehicle tabs to $75 by 2004, a reduction in income tax rates by 0.5% in each of our brackets, and finally a recognition that we must take additional steps to prepare our state for the next century.

We have the chance to recognize important shifts in the way our economy works, and we should not squander the opportunity to adjust the tax code to improve our competitive position in this global economy.

What specifically does that mean?

It means we now have the chance, and the ***leadership*** from my office, to reduce our reliance on property taxes for state and local spending, and make our income taxes more competitive as we compete for a shrinking workforce.

How we do that is simple, but not without controversy.

We must accept that consumer spending in our economy has shifted from 60% goods and only 40% services to just the opposite, 40% goods and 60% services.

That shrinking base, and the loss of tax revenues through internet sales, weakens the tax base and will ultimately force us to depend more on the very taxes that seem least fair, property and income, in order to balance our state and local budgets.

It's in our best long-term interests to expand the sales tax to those services. We should reduce this impact by lowering the tax rate from 6.5% to 6.0% and continue to exempt the necessities of life such as food, clothing and heating oil.

Now, there's a long list of lobbyists that are already throwing grenades at this recommendation.

Elected officials are voted into office to consider the best interests of the taxpayers.

Elected officials who dismiss this proposal out of hand, are listening more to lobbyists paid to represent special interests, than to the taxpayers.

It's interesting that the Department of Revenue got a call from a taxpayer that took her dog to get groomed on her way to the hair salon, the dog's haircut was taxed, but hers wasn't.

When you buy a suit, if it needs altering at the time you buy it, those alterations aren't taxed. However, if you gain a couple of pounds, and six months later you need the waist let out, you then will pay sales tax.

All I ask is that you think about these things.

Dry cleaning is taxable, but Laundromats are exempt.

Tree removal is taxable, but tree planting is not.

Telephone services like call forwarding and answering services are taxable when provided by your telephone company, but not when supplied by a different company.

If you pay for the lodging or care of your dog it is taxable, but if you do the same for your horse it is not.

If you buy a membership at the White Bear Swim and Racket Club it is taxable, if you join the YMCA with the same facilities, it is not.

And one more time:Care and lodging for horses is exempt from tax, but care and lodging of dogs is taxable.

Haircuts for people are exempt from tax, but haircuts for dogs are taxable.

Apparently the dogs don't have a very good lobbyist at the capitol.

This is not only crazy tax policy, it is unfair tax policy, and we need to change it.

Another relic of the past is property taxes, a concept that once was a good measure of wealth.

Ask any senior citizen today struggling to pay both increasing property taxes and heating bills and you know those days are gone.

It's not even a local tax anymore.

After all, we tell the local units of government what they must levy for basic education services. Then we wonder why there are only handfuls of people in the state who understand our property tax system.

Let's take a big step this year to truly make the property tax a local tax. Let's start by being honest about financing basic education.

Accountability starts with state government paying fully for its own spending decisions.

And don't worry, I've taken great care to make sure we still help equalize resources so that not only the property-rich school districts can consider additional funding through voter approved referendums. But under my proposal, when school programs are paid for with property taxes it will only represent those choices truly made at the local level.

After all of this, even after paying for part of the cost with some local aid shifts and a statewide levy on business and cabin owners, who don't get to vote in local elections, we still provide double-digit tax relief to all classes of property.

And we do it in a way that is fair to all taxpayers, no matter where they live in our state.

Now, there are going to be those who argue that we should have used those resources to simply increase the level of funding for K-12 education.

So let's talk about the spending in my budget.

You've all heard me say that I think the spending passed in the last two years was too high.

I believe that with a strong economy, low unemployment and growing personal income, the cost of government should not expand at an accelerated rate.

Remember, I am not asking that we change our Minnesota standards of good public services, I am asking that we don't create expectations in good times, that can't be sustained once the economic sky gets a little cloudy.

I do believe, however, that we need to meet our current responsibilities well. Therefore, in my budget:

I've provided funding for the increased costs expected for wages and benefits for state employees, I've provided for a share of the cost for higher education faculty and staff, and, in the second year of the biennium, I have provided for an increase in funding for workers in our long-term care systems and K-12 teachers.

I've also challenged state agencies to take a hard look at their existing programs before considering new spending.

But I don't have blinders on.

It's not that I can't see a need for strategic investments.

While I'm not recommending radical reductions in state programs, I'm also not recommending radical expansions of state programs either.

What I am recommending is selected strategic investments.

Starting with health care.

The State of Minnesota, just like any other employer, faces a 20% increase in premiums.

The cost of health care is getting so expensive that we just can't move as fast as I'd like in making sure that every child in the state

is covered by health insurance.

But while we must keep working to reduce the number of uninsured kids and adults in our state, we also must work harder to keep health care affordable for everyone.

I believe that a renewed focus on prevention and quality improvement is the key to long term cost control, and my budget invests in both strategies.

We need to be creative and disciplined.

We have to change incentives that promote increased consumption of health care services without any real improvement in health status.

But we can't do it alone, we can't just pass a bill, we've got to work together. We've got to educate our citizens and give them a reason to examine these issues.

We should start by getting aggressive at eliminating the glaring disparities in health status within segments of our population, specifically American Indians and communities of color. In a state that prides itself as being on the cutting edge of health care, our record is intolerable.

We're going to make progress in expanding coverage to children by changing the current practice where they lose eligibility just about the time we process their enrollment.

We're going to do this and, at the same time, reduce our reliance on health care taxes to pay for it. I'm recommending an elimination of the wholesale drug tax, the Premium Tax, and the elimination of the scheduled 0.5% increase in the provider tax and make sure it can't ever be increased. To do this, I'm recommending that 85% of the current cigarette tax be deposited directly in the Health Care Access Fund. And finally,

I'm recommending we continue the good policy of setting aside our last one-time tobacco settlement payments. I'm recommending we use them to stabilize funding for the Academic Health Center and to begin an innovative approach to improving children's health.

Healthy kids have a much better chance to learn than sick kids do.

And what about education?

Well, K-12 education was the big winner in the last budget.

And that $1.3 billion dollar increase in funding doesn't magically go away when this budget cycle ends. It will be there again in the next budget cycle.

Is it enough to do the job? Well, with all due respect to those who believe we can never put enough into education,

I believe that with just a little help, it is.

In this budget, I'm recommending that in addition to the inflationary adjustment in 2003, we should spend more money on:

- Equalizing the debt on school buildings,
- Indian education grants,
- Helping schools in need of improvement,
- School breakfast, and
- Making teacher licensure a self-sustaining activity.

Another thing we clearly need to start doing is paying our teachers not based simply on how long they've been in the profession, but on how well they're performing.

I'm recommending $15 million this biennium for districts and school sites that are interested in trying alternative approaches to compensation, rather than using the traditional "steps and lanes".

I believe that with the additional money invested in K-12 education over the past two years, along with these targeted investments, our schools can continue to compete with the best in the nation.

As for higher education I am recommending a 4.5% increase in funding that I believe will allow higher education institutions to continue existing programs responsibly.

I am recommending putting additional resources into student financial aid allowing the individual to then choose the higher education provider that best meets their educational needs.

We need to recognize the breadth of public and private higher education institutions that we have in Minnesota. From Brown Institute to the University of Minnesota to St. John's University, we have tremendous resources to help address our workforce development needs.

And these institutions should not be protected from competition in the marketplace, but rather should be flexible enough to meet employer and student demands for workforce skills.

My budget therefore includes increases of:

- $14 million dollars to expand financial aid to low income, non-traditional and part-time students,
- $11 million to extend eligibility beyond four years,
- $5 million to recognize increases in tuition and fees, and
- An additional $4 million dollars of funding to work with families and students that traditionally don't participate in higher education or are "first generation" students.

Last week when I met with a group of miners who have been laid off from LTV in Hoyt Lakes, worker after worker emphasized to me that they aren't looking for a hand out, they're looking for a hand up.

Those miners are some of the best workers in the world and all they want is to be given a chance to be retrained.

With a changing economy and a workforce that needs to be trained and retrained, higher education can no longer focus so exclusively on the traditional 18 year old, four-year student.

But my interest in addressing workforce development doesn't stop there.

We need to develop incentives to attract individuals to opportunities where there is a critical need, like health care and teaching.

Therefore, I am recommending:

- a $4.4 million dollar expansion of loan forgiveness programs for health care professionals,
- stabilizing the University's Academic Health Center with funding generated by additional tobacco endowment proceeds, and
- $10 million dollars for "Teachers for the 21st Century," a new program designed to recruit, train and maintain high-quality teachers in the workforce.

This is in addition to several other recommendations to streamline our bureaucratic licensure system, making it easier for those interested in teaching to get through the system.

In addition to our health and education systems many other things contribute to our strong quality of life here in Minnesota.

We enjoy our natural resources and we protect them.

And in my capital budget I'm recommending around $50 million dollars to match federal funds to be used to clean up the Minnesota River.

We reallocate resources to different parts of our state to ensure that strong public safety and fair and timely justice doesn't depend on the wealth of individual communities.

In support of our continuing effort to build a Criminal Justice Information System I am recommending that in the next biennium we invest $27 million dollars.

This investment focuses on areas that are appropriately state functions and suggests careful analysis on the next steps.

While this project is an important example of how an investment in technology can result in better justice and public safety, I want to assure taxpayers that the cost of the project will not get out of hand and exceed its benefit.

While new initiatives are important my first commitment on the spending in my budget is to ensure that core responsibilities are not neglected.

Reasonable resources must be dedicated to these important programs to ensure that we can maintain the commitments that are already in place and reflect both an appropriate public responsibility and priority areas of the budget.

That is NOT to say that those are programs that don't have value, frankly, if they didn't have value to someone we would have eliminated them long ago.

But often times with even our most critical functions there are more cost-effective ways to deliver services and those should be explored.

This biennial budget has numerous examples of reallocating to meet tomorrow's challenges.

One such opportunity that is long past due is a reduction in the operating costs per inmate in the state prison system. A significant portion of the estimated $18 million in savings from reducing the institutions' operating costs will then be redirected to enhance correctional services for offenders in the community.

Moving these funds "upstream" in the corrections system will reduce repeat offenders and prison costs down the road.

Another major reallocation is the shift away from more expensive institutional care in the nursing home industry.

My budget redirects $73 million from nursing homes into an $82 million initiative to expand community-based health care services.

By creating incentives for nursing facility downsizing, more options will be available to help our elderly remain in their homes or live independently.

This principle of giving more choices to our citizens, by leaving more money in their pockets through tax reductions, by providing more choices about how to live independently for our seniors, and by giving more flexibility to those seeking to improve their skills through higher education opportunities,

These are some of the basic aims of my budget. But just as important are the basic principles of budgeting that are so critical to the fiscal security of this state.

In that vein:

I am recommending a biennial budget that is structurally balanced in 2005.

I am recommending that we leave at least $100 million each year in 2004 and 2005 on the "bottom line" in the event a smaller surplus is available as a result of the February forecast.

I am recommending that the 2004 and 2005 reduction on the income tax rate of 1/10 of 1 percent be implemented only if resources are projected to be available.

I am recommending that the interest off the budget reserve be deposited back into that account, allowing it to grow over time and eventually reach an amount equivalent to 5% of our biennial budget.

I am recommending that we finally undo the business payment "shifts" that were implemented during a financial crisis over a decade ago. It is absolutely unfair for the state to continue to ask business to accelerate the payment of their June sales tax when the fiscal crisis that made it necessary is long over. And finally,

I am recommending that the state go back to sending local

government aid in the intended fiscal year.

These are steps that can and should be done today to give us greater financial flexibility in the future.

As I hold myself accountable for responsible budgeting, so will I hold the Legislature.

My expectation is that regardless of the news in the February forecast, we will all agree that it sets the boundaries for financial decision-making and that decision making on targets be agreed upon by April 1.

I am making a commitment here today that if, after the February forecast, the flexibility that I have built into my budget proves to be insufficient, I will immediately send the Legislature any revisions necessary to make sure my recommended budget is still structurally balanced.

Finally, just a few words about the capital budget.

I am recommending a capital budget this year because I believe the Legislature can get both the capital and operating budgets done in one session, in fact they have.

I am submitting a capital budget so that we can accomplish all the state's business and then, absent a state emergency, you can go home to your constituents, your jobs and your families for the rest of the biennium.

Rest assured, I must advise you that if you send a capital budget to my office at the end of session, but don't adjourn *sine die* you will risk a veto of the entire capital package.

Let me be clear, I am not interested in doing anything more than the biennial budget unless it's part of a "single session" legislative reform package.

I started this message referring to Newton's laws; well here's another one of his laws that I think applies to our budget making process:

"A body in motion tends to stay in motion."

I won't go through the whole analogy again, but I think you get the picture. Come May, or earlier if you want, let's have our work done and prove another of Newton's laws:

"A body at rest tends to stay at rest."

I look forward to working with the Legislature and the people during this very important session.

Thank you.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Governor's conference on tourism
Bloomington
January 18, 2001

Good afternoon. It's good to be here with you again. It's been another good year for tourism overall, and with our GOOD supply of snow, let's hope it's a better winter than last year for tourism in Minnesota!

It's great to have Marilyn Carlson Nelson with us today. Thank you, Marilyn, for promoting both U.S. tourism and Minnesota's tourism industry.

All of you have been working hard this past year, attracting travelers to your businesses and communities, and providing the quality vacation experience your visitors are looking for.

I've been out promoting tourism this past year, too. Tourism is a priority for my Administration and I'm proud to be called "Jesse, the Tourism Governor" Ventura.

This year, I've been getting the word out about Minnesota to people around the world:

I spoke with members of the American Society of Association Executives in Washington, D.C. I wanted these convention planners to know that our state offers a wide range of excellent facilities, **and** lots of fun things to do ***after*** their business is done.

I spoke with representatives of major Japanese tour companies in Los Angeles. After my trade and tourism mission to Japan last year, I'm convinced that this is an important **and lucrative** market for us.

I caught a bunch of fish at Crane Lake and I gave key outdoor writers and other media some good stories to tell about Minnesota fishing and vacations.

I took a hike down Michigan Avenue in Chicago, with the Minnesota Explorer newspaper in hand. I wanted to convince the Windy City that Minnesota should be their premier vacation destination.

Now I'm ready for another good year of spreading the word about Minnesota.

You've spent the last couple of days talking about how to build tourism around Minnesota's arts and heritage.

Heritage tourism is about inviting folks to learn more about our people, our traditions, and our creativity, and about who we are as Minnesotans. And we've got so much to draw from all around our great state.

We've got the amazing Guthrie Theater. It draws an audience from all 50 states and Canada. Twenty percent of the Guthrie audience is from outside of the Twin Cities area.

The Minnesota Opera has a growing subscriber base from out-of-state markets like Iowa, Wisconsin, Canada, and now even Ohio and Oregon.

The Minnesota Orchestra this past year has sold over 16,000 tickets to people from outside Minnesota.

And that's just the arts.

Minnesota's historic sites, like Split Rock Lighthouse and the Lindbergh Home and Interpretive Center, regularly draw visitors from across the country, and around the world.

I believe that *every* community in Minnesota has something to offer.

We've got terrific smaller communities like Grand Marais, with its playhouse, art galleries, art school, and North House Folk School

And New York Mills with its "Great American Think-Off."

We're proud of our Dakota and Ojibwe heritage, and can invite visitors to the excellent Mille Lac Lake Indian Museum or the Midwakaton Pow-wow in Mankato.

I encourage you to come up with new and different ways to draw visitors to your destination, and think of what your community has to offer.

Duluth is playing winter up this year, during their six-week Winterfest celebration, full of unique snow activities like sleigh, dogsled and luge rides; snow sculptures, curling demonstrations and a lutefisk contest. **Only in Minnesota.**

The town of Luverne is promoting the fact that well-known photographer Jim Brandenburg grew up there. They boldly asked him if he'd be willing to have a gallery of his work on their main street. Now they've got a gallery of terrific photography of prairie and north woods scenes, making Luverne a great getaway, especially in combination with a visit to the buffalo herds of Blue Mounds State Park.

This is a terrific state for bird watching, and dozens of communities are taking advantage of it. The new Pine to Prairie Birding Trail promotes over 40 bird watching sites between Warroad and Fergus Falls. More birding routes are being developed along the Minnesota and Mississippi River, and there are several birding festivals each spring.

On the Gunflint Trail, Gunflint Lodge is always coming up with clever ways to attract new guests. For instance, they have Woodland Women's Retreats, promoting adventure and relaxation.

Further down the shore, the Coho Restaurant at Bluefin Bay diplays and sells the works of local artists, with all proceeds going directly to the artists. That's a great example of cultural tourism. And, by the way, congratulations Rob Buntz of Bluefin Bay Resort on being named Outstanding Individual in Tourism.

And talk about bold ideas. Look at the Mall of America right here in Bloomington. Someone thought it would be good to build the country's largest shopping and entertainment center here in Minnesota. Lots of people had their doubts. Now it's the state's biggest tourism attraction. Wander through the mall and you're going to hear languages from many other countries.

So, I challenge you to go home and think big, think bold, and come up with new ideas and new ways of doing business, new ways of building tourism.

We've worked hard for Minnesota tourism in the past two years, and together, we'll tell Minnesota's story.

Best wishes for another rewarding year. As your Tourism Governor, I'm looking forward to working with all of you to share our great state with visitors from around the world.



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Hiawatha LTR groundbreaking
Minneapolis
January 17, 2001

Good morning.

Since I took office many of you here today have joined me in envisioning a new future for Minnesota, a future that was spelled LRT.

In my first State of the State speech, I made light rail a cornerstone of my administration's multi-modal transportation strategy, and said I wanted to ride a train.

Highways, bus and rail help move Minnesota into the future. And, now the reality of light rail will make the Twin Cities region and the entire state of Minnesota more competitive in the 21st century.

This morning will be forever remembered in Minnesota history. This moment has been waiting to happen for more than 30 years.

The Hiawatha Light Rail Line is happening today because the public demanded more transportation choices. Because many people have worked hard and kept their sights focused.

Congratulations to everyone who has remained dedicated despite the roadblocks and bureaucratic games some people chose to play at public expense.

It is my honor to recognize those leaders, our partners, who have made light rail happen in Minnesota:

Congressman Martin Sabo, who believed in light rail and was instrumental in paving the way; Representative Jim Oberstar

and the rest of our congressional delegation;

The Federal Transit Administration, our funding partner

The regional rail authorities, led by Hennepin County and commissioner Peter McLaughlin and Joint Powers Board;

The Minnesota Legislature, especially state senator Carol Flynn, who chaired the Senate Transportation Committee

In my administration, the Dept. of Transportation and Commissioner El Tinklenberg, who will build a world class line and 17 stations on time and within budget;

The Metropolitan Council and Chair Ted Mondale and Council members, for planning the line and development around the stations with our government partners, local business and citizens along the corridor, and who will operate the line through Metro Transit

The Metropolitan Airports Commission and chair Charles Nichols;

The city of Minneapolis and Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton and Minneapolis City Council members;

And the city of Bloomington, former Mayor Coral Houle, Mayor Gene Winstead and Bloomington City Council members;

This groundbreaking today is happening for another reason.

The determination of citizens, like the Hiawatha Light Rail Community Advisory Committee, who truly understand what our future is all about.

I grew up in south Minneapolis and can tell you that light rail will help revitalize the neighborhoods. Our metro area needs choices like light rail if our economy is to remain strong.

What will make the Hiawatha Light Rail Line successful?

Open it for business!

I invite you to start making your way outside in the next few minutes, mark this historic moment, and join me in breaking ground for light rail in Minnesota!

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Governor Jesse Ventura
Humphrey Institute remarks
Minneapolis
January 16, 2001

Good afternoon.

I'd like to read you a quote from a book:

"The two party system has given this country the war of Lyndon Johnson, the Watergate of Nixon, and the incompetence of Carter. Saying we should keep the two party system because it is working is like saying the Titanic voyage was a success because a few people survived on life rafts."

The person who said that is quite out spoken, known to ruffle the feathers of conventional politicans, and could not care less if he offends anyone with his opinions. The media loves him because he's always good for a provocative quote, he's an author of more than one book, and lately he's taken to writing poetry.

The person who made that very provocative statement is Eugene J. McCarthy.

The book that contains this quote was written by another unconventional politician who could not care less if he offends anyone with his opinions and whose quotes are sought after by the media.

The book is *Do I stand Alone?* and the author is Jesse Ventura.

You have asked me to come here today to talk about tripartisan government.

You ask: Is it working?

Well, first of all I think it is safe to say that it sure isn't any worse that what we had before I was elected.

And if you don't believe that just ask Gene McCarthy.

Seriously though, I think that the honest answer to that question is that there is ample evidence that tripartisan government is working.

I'll talk about that evidence but first let me address something that I know someone in the crowd will bring up.

Someone will say this experiment with tripartisan government in Minnesota is not a true test because it is more of a Jesse Ventura phenomenon than a third party, a third way of governing.

Someone will say that Jesse Ventura and his celebrity status skews the landscape and that a more conventional political personality wouldn't have been elected or had the impact that I am having.

Well, to that I say baloney. The fact is you cannot separate the two. Jesse Ventura was the candidate of a legitimate third party.

Whatever you think of Ross Perot's persona, he was a presidential candidate of a legitimate third party and in 1992 he received 19 % of the country's popular vote.

And more importantly, he brought the issue of deficit spending to the table and caused the Democrats and Republicans to take the issue seriously and do something about it.

While some may say that Ross Perot and Jesse Ventura are aberrations, I don't believe so. I think that the people are looking for more diversity in leadership styles. They are looking for something beyond the same old Democrats and Republicans.

Fundamentally, the people are looking for more choices.

More genuine leaders that aren't climbing the political latter from elected office to elected office.

It is in this environment that Ross Perot got one out of every five votes cast in the 1992 presidential election.

It is in this environment that the state of Maine elected an independent governor two years later.

And it was in this environment that I was elected governor of Minnesota in 1998.

But without the party I could not have done it.

If it wasn't for the Dean Barkleys, Phil Madsens, Diane Goldmans and thousands of others in the early stages of the Reform Party we would not be here talking about whether tripartisan government is working.

And so, is it working?

Of course it's working.

The signs are obvious and go beyond Minnesota.

First, there are signs that, in general, more people than usual are interested in Minnesota government.

People who haven't paid attention to government in the past, now do pay attention, and that's a good thing.

That more people are voting is a good sign.

As I said earlier, Minnesota is not the only state with tripartisan government. Maine, even before Minnesota, has an independent governor. And I don't think it is a coincidence.

These are two very progressive states, with an independent nature, who consistently lead the nation in voter turnout

It is in this kind of environment that tripartisan government can and does work.

I don't know about you, but since I became governor I haven't noticed that our state's stature among other states has been reduced.

Think back.

Can you think of the last time that a Minnesota governor was invited to spend a day with Harvard University economists and then to speak to the Kennedy School of Government?

Can you think of the last time a Minnesota governor was asked to lecture at the Nixon Library, Georgetown University, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Carleton, the Navel Academy and West Point?

Can you think of the last time a Minnesota governor was invited to spend the night at the White House with a President that was not of his party?

Can you think of the last time a Minnesota governor was asked to advise the President-elect of another party on world trade?

Can you think of the last time a Minnesota governor was elected with 37% of the vote but has had job approval ratings consistently in the 70% range?

Is tripartisan government working?

Let me ask you to think about the executive branch of Minnesota's government since I was elected to office.

Name the last governor of Minnesota who upon selecting his cabinet had his Democratic opponent say that it is the most talented cabinet in Minnesota history.

If I recall correctly the legislature, and specifically Senator Randy Kelly, has been saying for years that we need to do something about the high cost of our prison system.

This year, one of those very talented cabinet members, Commissioner Sheryl Ramstad Hvass is doing something about the high cost of prisons and has instituted a plan to lower the per diem cost in Minnesota prisons.

Is it working? Ask Randy Kelly. And he'll tell you that when it comes to prison management it is.

How about applying that talent to fiscal responsibility?

Under the direction of Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock we put together, and the legislature passed, a budget that is structurally balanced. That is, our budgets do not commit the state of Minnesota to spending that cannot be supported four years into the future.

That has never been done before.

Is it working? Ask the leading bond houses in New York. They'll tell you that when it comes to fiscal management, it is.

Tomorrow we are going to break ground for the first light rail system in Minnesota.

In the last two years we have reduced taxes in Minnesota by over $2 billion dollars.

In the last two years we have sent sales tax rebates back to citizens that amounted to almost $2 billion dollars.

In the last two years tourism in Minnesota has increased and is now a $10 billion dollar industry.

Maybe some would say the measurement should be about ideas.

Ideas like a more accountable and efficient legislative process.

Ideas like long-term funding for a multi-model transportation system.

Ideas like cutting edge tax reform that would adapt our tax system to the new economy.

Ideas like reforming the way we pay teachers.

Idea's like health care for all children.

If ideas were the measure, I would say it's working.

How about the fact that the governor in this tripartisan government hasn't had a fundraiser since he was sworn into office?

Would that be a measure of how it is working?

How about the fact that we have had two very successful legislative sessions and no special sessions?

There's no gridlock.

There's no panic.

So why then are we asking the question?

I think we are asking the question because the people clearly want something different than what they are getting from the two party system.

They want more candidates to chose from.

They want more policy choices.

They want citizens to serve as their elected officials, not career politicians.

I was elected governor because the people were looking for something more than the same old bipartisan fixes.

The people are watching this experiment because they want an end to short term fixes of long term problems.

The people are filled with hope that this tripartisan government can

achieve solutions that don't rely on short-term fixes targeted toward favored constituencies of the party in power.

The people sent us a message that the bipartisan system wasn't working.

They said, "Try it this way".

We owe it to the people to make good on their challenge.

I hope that when you have finished your discussion today that you will agree that while we surely can, and will do better, tripartisan government is working.

Thank You.

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Governor Jesse Ventura
State of the State
House Chambers, State Capitol
January 4, 2001

Bold Reforms for a New Economy

Mr. Speaker,

Mr. President, and honorable Legislators.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of this prestigious venue to deliver my second state of the state address.

Governor Wendell Anderson,

Governor Harold Stassen;

Thank you for coming here today--and on behalf of all the people of Minnesota--let me once again thank you for your service to this great state.

(Please stand and be acknowledged)

Lt. Governor Mae Schunk.

Thank you for your loyalty and dedication to this administration and our goals.

Welcome to the constitutional officers:

Attorney General Mike Hatch.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer.

State Auditor Judi Dutcher, and

State Treasurer Carol Johnson.

To the Chief Justice,

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and

The Minnesota Court of Appeals,

your attendance is indeed an honor.

To my Commissioners, my staff, my friends -- from the bottom of my heart--thank you for your hard work and loyalty.

And finally, thank you to my family for being with me here today.

It's been an interesting two years in the state of Minnesota.

And it's been a good two years.

How do I know that?

The people told me.

In the last two years I have traveled to every corner of this state and listened to the people.

And so while I have a ton of statistics to prove that the state of the state is good--I come here today with something even better than numbers:

I come here fortified with the hugs, the smiles, and the encouraging words of the people.

And those words are comforting.

In Alexandria and Alvarado I got off a bus and mingled with some very hard- working people who have helped make this the great state it is.

In Albert Lea I met meat packers who help make Minnesota one of the top food processing and packaging states in the nation.

And in Becker, Belgrade, Big Lake and Bemidji I saw hard working young people chipping in as part of the best workforce in the world.

A workforce that for the last two years has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. Business comes to Minnesota because we not only work hard, but we know how to work smart.

In many towns throughout Minnesota it was pointed out to me that, while we need to remain vigilant, people are appreciative that the

Pollution Control Agency is working closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources to preserve and safeguard our environment.

In Bloomington I learned of the resources we have available for abused women and their families. But I also learned of the terrible toll domestic abuse takes on our society.

I listened to these advocates and I learned.

In Callaway, where it seemed the whole town came out to greet me, I was overwhelmed by the confidence people had in themselves and in our ability to do what is right for them.

In Chatfield, I got a haircut. Really.

And I saw a main street struggling to remain vital in a changing rural economy.

I took note.

In Cold Spring I toured a brewery. A brewery that is a classic example of adapting business strategies to a changing world.

I learned that all over our state businesses are adapting.

In fact, in the last two years our Department of Trade and Economic Development assisted over 205 projects committed to the creation of 8600 jobs, 82% of which were in rural Minnesota.

Adapting to a changing economy. It is what will make a good state better.

In Crane Lake I caught some fish. And that day, especially for my family and me, the state of the state was good.

Thank you Crane Lake--you did yourself proud.

Fishing, golfing, swimming, hiking, boating, skiing, snowmobiling, canoeing, the arts, sports and even shopping, make this state a good state to visit.

In the last two years I have worked hard to promote tourism. And in the next two years I will work even harder.

In the last two years tourism in Minnesota has grown by over 10% a year and is now a $10 BILLION dollar industry.

I traveled to a lot of towns this past year and met a lot of people whose livelihoods depend on tourism.

Towns like Duluth and Detroit Lakes.

It is towns like these that I have in mind when I travel to Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Japan and urge their citizens to experience Minnesota.

I traveled to towns where the people are proud of their natural resources and work hard to preserve them from the growth of our cities.

I saw where the rivers meet in Elk River, I played golf in Eden Prairie, and I was charmed by the people in Fertile.

I had lunch at the Whistle Stop in Frontenac and was serenaded by singers in Fulda.

In Eveleth I was deeply concerned and in Hoyt Lakes I was sad.

Life is good in Minnesota, but not for everyone.

But I also have experienced Minnesota's ability to persevere.

In tiny Heidelberg I was overwhelmed by the sincerity and kindness shown to me by two of the most entrepreneurial spirits in Minnesota.

Laura Odenthal and her husband Randy took advantage of a new state meat inspection program and developed a direct marketing outlet for their meat products.

And, believe it or not, Laura and Randy produced a bratwurst made from alligator and pork and sold over 2,500 pounds of the product at the State Fair.

The entrepreneurial spirit is what makes this a state above all states. The ultimate resource in a goal of self-sufficiency is the can do attitude.

Our state is full of entrepreneurial role models.

Donn and Sarah Kreofsky developed Lark Toy Company in Kellogg, Minnesota and built the most unusual carousel you will ever see.

You know how many people visited that carousel in Kellogg last year?

750,000 people. Yes, three quarters of a million people.

For hard working, innovative and creative people like the Kreofskys, the state of the state is good.

But while most of us are enjoying the good life, things around us are changing.

In Long Prairie, Marshall and New Trier the agricultural economy continues to evolve; and in Mankato, Minnetonka, Moorhead and Minneapolis ecommerce continues to expand.

In Owatonna property taxes are projected to go up 14%. In Morris the projection is a 16% increase, in Apple Valley 20%, in New Hope 30% and in Bemidji and Delano 35%.

In Rochester many thousands of health care workers struggle to keep us healthy.

I've been out there and I have gotten a message.

And the message is:

Things around us, the economy, health care, communications, are changing at a rapid pace, and government policy must change accordingly.

Today I am bringing you the Ventura Administration's agenda for that change:

Bold change for a new economy and a new way of life in Minnesota.

A way of life that includes a 21st century tax system, a 21st century telecommunications infrastructure, a 21st century education system and a 21st century government to guide us through this fast paced world.

Let us begin with bold, responsible tax reform.

We are poised to provide Minnesota citizens with a reformed tax system that not only lightens their load, but also makes the tax system more fair, simple and accountable to taxpayers.

I also want our tax laws to support Minnesota workers and businesses to compete and win in the globally competitive marketplace.

The tax changes I will present to the 2001 legislature will lay an important and ambitious agenda before lawmakers and citizens for the coming months.

Yes, they will be controversial.

Yet I believe that addressing those issues now is crucial to the long term best interests of the citizens of Minnesota.

I ask you to join me in a constructive dialogue that can successfully turn these goals into reality by the close of the legislative session.

Over the past year and a half, my administration has worked with many of you, local government officials and citizens, to develop a good understanding of concerns and hopes for a better tax system.

What have we heard and learned in that process?

Our "big three" taxes, property, income, and sales tax, together account for 3 out of every 5 dollars that citizens pay for state and local government in Minnesota.

And each of the big 3 has its own big problems:

The property tax is a complicated shell game that frustrates citizen involvement, and lets both state and local governments evade responsibility for their spending and taxing decisions.

And all too often, responsibility for local spending decisions is camouflaged by levy limits, state aid payments, and a tax structure that places too much of the tax burden on those who don't even get to vote.

All of this makes it impossible for the property tax to be what it was originally intended:

A local tax, controlled by the community, with local officials and citizens accountable for its use.

The property tax also puts an unfairly high burden on businesses and rental housing, which hurts our competitiveness and creates economic development barriers in many parts of our state.

And finally, many Minnesotans, including myself, question the basic fairness of the property tax as a way to pay for government.

How much does the value of a property really have to do with how

much it costs government to serve it, or the ability of the owner to pay the tax?

All too often, not much.

The property tax needs to be reformed so it is smaller, simpler, fairer, and more truly a local tax, and we can do it, this year.

In my budget,

I will propose that the state take over the full costs of the K through 12 general education formula and eliminate the state-mandated general education levy by local school districts.

Combined with other changes to the property tax system, this will result in net property tax relief of over $800 million annually to all types of property across Minnesota,

Including double digit percentage property tax reductions to:

businesses,

homes,

apartments,

farms, and

cabins.

And be assured that property tax relief will benefit all parts of our state.

I will propose reforms to restrict local school districts to levying special referendums on residential property because let's face it, they are the ones that vote for them and benefit from them.

Today, businesses, cabin owners and farmers experience taxation without representation when it comes to these voter approved levies.

Everyone needs to pay their fair share, but I will propose that businesses and cabins that have no local vote will pay tax at a uniform statewide rate instead.

And farmland will be exempted from both the local operating referendum and the statewide tax.

I will propose increases in the state "circuit breaker" property

tax refund, to help seniors and others with fixed incomes cope with the effects of rising property values and taxes.

And I will propose that what remains of the property tax be made more clearly a local tax, locally decided, locally controlled and accountable:

by eliminating the sales tax on local governments,

by beginning to take state funding responsibility for some mandated juvenile protection costs now borne by county governments and the property tax,

by avoiding levy limits,

by reforming state aid formulas to cities so they better reflect local needs and resources,

and by improving the quality and understandability of taxpayer information so citizens can participate more effectively in local spending and taxing decisions.

Another tax many people have told me is unfair is the income tax.

A tax that's given our state more notoriety than our 10,000 lakes.

Yes, we have been working on lowering them, and over the last two years the income tax has been substantially reduced. Still, we have the 10th highest top rate and the third highest starting rate in the nation.

What kind of a message does that send about how much we value work and individual self sufficiency?

Those high income tax rates also make it harder to attract and keep skilled workers in our state, the very people we need if our economy is to continue to grow.

Our income tax rates need to be lowered again for all taxpayers, and we can do it, this year.

In my budget,

I will propose an across the board reduction in state income tax rates that will reach .5% in all three brackets, and

I will propose increases in the Working Family Credit to ensure that work is rewarded at all income levels in our state.

There is one tax that many people believe is fair (or at least as fair as any tax can be!): the sales tax.

People say it feels like they can control it, that the payment of the sales tax is their choice, not the government's.

I agree with them, and I want our state to rely more on the sales tax, and less on the income and property taxes in the future.

But the sales tax has some problems, too:

Right now, the sales tax is out of step with a modern economy.

The fact is our society is more and more service based.

Think about this.

On average, about forty percent of the purchases you make today are for goods. Things like hammers, books, tires and snow shovels.

All these items are taxable.

But about sixty percent of purchases are for services. Things like haircuts, piano tuning, boat docking, dating services, and car washes.

Things that mostly go untaxed.

This 60/40 split is almost the exact reversal of what existed in the years when our sales tax was developed.

It's time we change our tax system to reflect our economy.

The sales tax faces some other problems, too:

The growth of ecommerce and sales over the Internet, while essential for economic growth, also causes a growing tax loss because sellers from outside Minnesota don't collect our sales tax and, in the process, put our Minnesota retailers at a competitive disadvantage.

We must find a way, working with other states, to create a way for out of state sellers to charge and collect our sales tax, just as our in state businesses must.

If we don't, more and more of the tax burden will be shifted to those who find themselves on the wrong side of the "digital divide" and that's not fair.

Finally, we have a high state sales tax rate, at 6.5 percent, it is the 3rd highest in the country, a leftover from the state budget problems of the early 90's. And one of the few "adjustments" from that era we have yet to undo.

Our sales tax needs to apply more fairly to all parts of a modern economy, at a lower rate, and it needs to be preserved and enhanced as a reliable source of tax revenue for the future, and we can do it, this year.

In my budget, and in concert with other Governors across the nation,

I will propose administrative and definitional changes designed to align Minnesota's sales tax system with those of other states and create a national, streamlined state sales tax system that can:

Help solve the internet sales problem,

Create a level playing field for Minnesota based retailers, and

Preserve the sales tax as a revenue source for the future.

I will propose a reduction in the state sales tax rate to 6 percent.

And in what will perhaps be the most controversial aspect of my tax reform plan:

I will propose that Minnesota broaden its sales tax base to include services as well as goods, while continuing to exempt life essentials like food, clothing, and heating fuels.

This particular reform is so important that I am going to say again what I said earlier:

As responsible representatives of the people we cannot ignore that we have a sales tax in Minnesota, built and designed on the late 60's economy. It is riddled with exemptions and totally ignores a huge and growing segment of our economy.

This is a tough one.

This change will take tremendous political courage.

But I am asking the legislature and the people of this state, to stand with me and take this issue on.

And in the end, I hope you will make a bold move to position our state for more good economic times.

Minnesota's future is increasingly global and competitive.

And to make sure Minnesota remains an attractive, competitive place to live and do business we must reduce and reform other taxes as well.

In my budget, in addition to reductions in business property taxes:

I will propose reductions in corporate income taxes to help make Minnesota based firms more competitive.

And in connection with my sales tax reform recommendations,

I will also propose expanded sales tax exemptions for materials and equipment that will help lower the cost of operating here.

Tax reform and relief don't end with the big 3 taxes, though.

There's also my favorite "bad" tax.

The motor vehicle registration tax.

It was a bad tax last year when we lowered the tax to a maximum of $99 from the third to tenth years, and it's still a bad tax.

In my budget,

I will propose that we continue to move toward my original goal that no one ever pay more than $75 dollars for license tabs.

And finally, in each recent session of the legislature, we have faced a continuing call to reform the way we pay for the Minnesota Care Program.

Making health insurance available at affordable prices is a good thing, but paying for it through taxes on prescription drugs, HMO premiums, and an increasing tax on health care providers is not.

Therefore, in my budget:

I will propose a repeal of the wholesale prescription drug tax, the HMO premium tax, and permanently setting the health care provider tax at 1.5%.

Lower, reformed property taxes, lower income taxes, a lower sales

tax rate, Along with all the other changes I've described, I think you'll agree is an ambitious agenda for tax reform, you might even call it a *BIG PLAN*!

I know that **all** of you share some of my goals, **some** of you share most of them, and a **few** of you may even share all of them.

But you're probably wondering, can we accomplish all of it this year?

I believe we can.

It requires only two things, but they're big things, and we will need to do both of them.

First, we must hold down spending growth.

We must hold spending down so we can combine tax relief with tax reform, and as a result, taxes overall can be lower, simpler and fairer.

My budget will do that.

Second, we must be bold and face the challenges of building a tax system, and especially a sales tax system, for the 21st century.

I know, and you know, that tax reform is not for the faint-hearted, especially when times are good.

But I also know, and I think you do too, that many of the changes I have described today are long overdue.

All of this requires us to look bravely at the status quo, raise questions and challenge the complicated system we have today.

As we work together to challenge this system, let us do it without mis information and mischaracterization of what this plan is really about.

This plan is not about raising taxes. It's about making a tax system fairer.

Over all it's about cutting taxes.

And in the end it is about the ability for all Minnesotans to have more money in their pockets and for the State of Minnesota to have less in theirs.

But while taxes are a huge concern there are other important reforms that Minnesota will need to be competitive in the new economy.

Minnesota has not completed a major overhaul of its telecommunications laws for over 80 years!

That means the last time we overhauled our telecommunications law, there were no cellphones, no Internet, no cable TV, no such thing as digital or high speed access.

The telecommunications world of today is completely different than the one of 80 years ago. And Minnesota has not kept up.

That is not acceptable.

This year, we must deliver.

Our telecommunications reform plan eliminates an entire chapter of state law and abolishes more than ten pages of outdated regulations.

And in addition, it creates an expedited process for resolving telecommunications related disputes between customers and providers.

It allows telephone companies to compete on a level playing field in Minnesota. New competitors will bring choice and improved service to consumers currently served by a monopoly.

Let me give you a couple of examples of how competition helps.

Fey Industries employs more than 200 people in Edgerton, Minnesota.

Until recently, the local phone company was charging them more than $1,500 per month for high speed service. When a competitive telephone company came to Edgerton, they offered to sell exactly the same service for $225 a month.

When the original company found out about that, they offered to cut the price to $500 a month. Fey Industries decided that the best option for them was to buy service from **BOTH** companies to make sure that they had backup service in case one line went down.

With competition in town, Fey Industries now has double the service at half the price!

On the other hand, in Glenwood Minnesota, one of their major

employers, American Business Forms, has had to suffer through five cuts in its fiber optic cable in recent months. There is no competitor there to offer them backup service so when the fiber gets cut, American Business Forms is effectively shut down and they lose thousands of dollars.

Our plan adds teeth to requirements that force monopoly providers to open up their networks to competitors.

Just ask the residents of Marshall or Worthington what happens when competition is allowed to thrive, rates decrease and service improves.

Just ask the people of Gilbert what can happen when a major employer like Delta Dental chooses to site a new facility with more than 100 good paying jobs because Gilbert has high speed telecommunications access and other communities do not.

Monopoly providers have no incentive to keep rates low, invest in advanced services, or provide the best quality services because they know consumers have no other choice.

And despite what some of the monopoly phone providers have been saying, my plan **does not** increase taxes.

What it does do is eliminate hidden taxes in our phone bills that subsidize monopoly telephone company profits.

The Ventura Administration's research shows that much of Greater Minnesota is being left behind when it comes to advanced telecommunications services.

Some of the smaller providers in rural Minnesota are making investments in their infrastructure and we applaud them, but this is not happening on a broad enough scale to give all Minnesotans access to this technology.

Our goal is simple.

Minnesota will make the transition from a noncompetitive regulatory environment to a consumer oriented telecommunications marketplace.

High quality, fairly priced voice, data, and video services must be available to every home and business in Minnesota.

If we are not successful in accomplishing this reform, this year, we will have, again, missed a great opportunity.

Let's work together to get it done. The people are counting on us.

And now, education.

Arguably our most important responsibility.

And for sure, our greatest challenge to reform. But reform we must.

We have a great history of education reform in this state but now is not a time to rest on our laurels.

We must meet the challenge of filling teacher vacancies in certain subject areas, including math and science.

We must meet the challenge of teacher compensation in general.

And we must meet the challenge of being accountable to the taxpayers for the billions we spend on education in Minnesota.

Therefore, increases in my budget for K through 12 education spending will be limited and targeted.

My budget will include options that propose to facilitate alternative ways of paying teachers and alternative pathways to teaching.

This last biennium, with tripartisan support, we increased K through 12 spending by **$1.3 billion dollars.**

Still most local school districts would like much more. But I am skeptical because I believe that most districts have not shown taxpayers the benefit of the last budget increase.

I do know that some districts are working hard to focus more of their existing money on improving student learning.

It can be done.

From Mabel - Canton to Minneapolis to Minnetonka, teachers, school boards and administrators are having some healthy discussions about establishing priorities and finding new ways to do things with the same old money, and you know what?

The world is not crashing to a halt.

What I will recommend in my budget are ways to support new teachers in the classroom by supporting those districts that think and act outside of the box.

My budget will support those districts that provide mentoring support, and create new career pathways that help teachers stay in their chosen profession.

I will propose ways to support getting new teachers and non teachers into the classroom by loosening and fixing licensing requirements and compensation plans.

We all know that the least productive teacher gets the same pay as the most productive teacher. Obviously there is not a great cost benefit to this system, especially in a full employment economy.

I am proposing that when a teacher is a superior performer that teacher be paid accordingly.

It is a different world today and will be a much different world tomorrow. And in education, as in business, it is the tomorrow that we must prepare for.

Education is key. No question about it.

It is the foundation upon which our children will build their working careers. And it is the driving force for still more reform.

Minnesota's success in the new economy will depend upon our future workforce being prepared and our current workforce being re - educated.

About 16 months ago, I met the movers and shakers of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

What impressed me the most about that town was that their leader, Mayor Marlin Torgenson, had the right attitude.

When you called up the mayor and got his message recorder, you heard this Will Rogers quote:

"Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there."

I think that about sums up the workforce development challenge we are facing right now.

Let's start with the basics.

The most important asset we have in Minnesota is our human capital.

Our workforce will keep business in Minnesota, it will attract new business to Minnesota, and it will create vitality to maintain our superior standard of living.

In today's economy, workforce development is economic development.

Yes, we have a responsibility to create a favorable business climate with tax rates for business that are competitive and property taxes that are fair.

But our responsibility does not end there.

The state must approach education, workforce development and economic development with a single strategy.

That is why I am exploring a major reorganization among the two state agencies that are currently delivering workforce and economic development programs, the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Later this month I will bring to you a proposal to more fully incorporate workforce and economic development.

My administration's proposal will consider the best of these areas and create new opportunities to take advantage of our commitment to this new principle.

The purpose of a reorganization is not cost savings. I expect this reform to be budget - neutral.

The primary purpose of a reorganization is to integrate economic and workforce development policy decision making.

Why?

Because the new economy demands it.

Another goal of the reorganization would be to provide a fresh perspective for aging programs that were created in an era of high unemployment, slow economic growth and few career opportunities.

My long term vision would include the state's entire adult training system. It would incorporate more fully adult basic education programs and our vocational/technical training institutions.

While these changes will produce a new way of doing things, the

strategy to address workforce development does not end with these agency changes.

The workforce development strategy extends to every department across my Administration and includes a series of initiatives that I will propose to deal with teacher shortages, loan forgiveness programs for health care workers and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

All this is so that Minnesota can compete with other states in this new technology driven economy.

But there is one last thing that I would like to emphasize.

I've already shared with you that to win in this economy we must have the best workforce. But let me add that in order to stay on top we must have a constant source of innovation.

We have this in the University of Minnesota.

But we must capture this innovation and bring it into Minnesota's economy.

It seems logical to me that the research and discovery that takes place at **our** university should stay in **our** marketplace and become Minnesota business opportunities.

To facilitate this process, in my budget this year, I will invest in technology commercialization that will be precise and targeted toward moving invention into our economy.

With the right cohesion between Minnesota's business community and the University of Minnesota, I believe we can make this success happen

When I started this speech I said it would be about reform.

And it is.

Bold, necessary and responsible reform.

You may have also noticed that these reforms have one thing in common.

They don't set us up to spend a lot of money.

Again, it doesn't matter what part of Minnesota I travel in, I can be in Thief River Falls, Slayton or Willmar, and generally come back

to St. Paul with three messages:

The first message is usually, "send any excess tax collections back to the people in the form of a sales tax rebate."

So let's do the right thing and send it back.

Second, they almost always remind me that I am a "fiscal conservative" and promised in my campaign to limit government.

The third thing I usually hear is that "taxes are unfairly applied and are way too high. So when you have permanent growth in the economy that will allow you to cut taxes, do it."

And finally let me add a fourth that I am beginning to hear: "These economic times are great but remember they might not last. Be cautious."

Let me give you an example of how my caution was not heeded last year.

Minnesota state government grew 16.3% last biennium and about 6% of that growth came in the second year's session that was supposed to be a capital bonding year.

This year state government is expected to grow another 6.5% even before you and I make any decisions this session.

That 6.5% is the estimated cost for programs that are already in law. The growth is a result of expanding state programs, and inflationary pressure for things like labor costs and health care.

I strongly believe that we need to assess what we're already doing with the projected $41.1 billion dollar budget for the next biennium before we consider spending a dollar more.

I instructed every one of my commissioners to thoroughly evaluate their existing budgets and reallocate resources away from unnecessary, irrelevant or redundant programs and toward higher priorities with clear, measurable outcomes.

As a result of this challenge on January 23 of this year I will deliver a biennial budget that will have very limited spending, be focused on achieving results and committed to delivering better and faster services with little more than existing resources.

Better and faster services with little more than existing resources.

Interesting.

Last year I spoke often of reforming government to make it better, faster and more accountable, all with fewer resources.

I suggested that we could do that with a unicameral legislature.

It didn't happen.

Instead, many of you argued that the problems in the legislature could be solved through changes in statute and legislative rule.

"You don't need to cut off your arm to fix a broken bone."

That's what I was told in a committee hearing last February.

I'm disappointed that the bicameral process effectively killed a bill giving the people an opportunity to weigh in on the structure of their government by sending it back to committee for consideration of a fiscal note.

I am, however, encouraged by your willingness to look at reforming the legislative process to provide for a more open, accountable and responsive government.

I heard from many of you last session about how you would like to reform the bicameral system.

Representative McElroy shared a proposal reforming the committee structure in both bodies to encourage joint decisionmaking on important issues to avoid the need for conference committees.

Other ideas were offered up in the various committee hearings.

I am challenging the legislature to make sure that these changes are considered and adopted in some form this session.

I challenge you to spend time reviewing and repealing obsolete laws and rules in the first few weeks of session before considering any new laws.

I challenge you to set real spending targets out in the open and as early in the session as possible so that big decisions are not delayed until the final weeks of the legislative session.

I challenge you to give each legislator the opportunity to introduce a priority bill that will be guaranteed committee consideration and a floor vote. And,

I challenge you to open up the process by ensuring that committees do not meet after 10 p.m. and that meetings are announced at least one week in advance.

I realize that the legislature has made progress on reforming the legislative process over the last decade. But there is always room for improvement.

I trust that you will consider these suggestions as you adopt legislative rules, and I encourage you to do what's necessary to deliver on the promises made in the last session to reform the legislative process.

Implementing these changes will help ensure a more open, accountable and responsive government.

Of course, I still believe that a single house legislature would be the best way to fix the problems inherent in our two house system.

Rest assured, if the legislature fails to reform itself in this session, to paraphrase my good friend Arnold Schwartzenegger: "Unicameral will be back."

Another reform that I will propose is having only a single legislative session in the biennium.

I hope that you will also join me in advancing a **Single Session** every two years.

The current system was adopted by constitutional amendment in 1972 to allow for more thoughtful consideration of important policy and budgetary matters, avoid the end of session logjams, and eliminate the need for expensive special sessions.

This probably sounded like pretty good reform back then. However, when reform clearly doesn't work I think we should have the courage to recognize it.

In fact, since we went to two sessions, we've seen more bills introduced, more laws passed, longer sessions, legislative logjams and more permanent growth in state spending.

The House and Senate introduced a total of 8,016 bills in the 1999 - 2000 biennium. Up 45% from just ten years ago.

The 1999 - 2000 Legislature, for the first time in history, passed more laws in the second year of the biennium than in the first year.

We still experience the end of session logjams as the legislature meets around the clock to conclude its business before the constitutional deadline.

In the 2000 session the legislature met 51 legislative days over 15 weeks. This is up from 38 legislative days in 10.5 weeks in 1990.

It's quite clear that this is not what was originally intended when the people passed the constitutional amendment allowing for flexible sessions.

Remember the 16.3% increase in spending I spoke about earlier?

That number grew from 12% in 1999 because the legislature came back in the 2000 legislative session and increased spending even more.

The second year of the biennium is supposed to be only about capital bonding. But it also ended up being about more permanent spending.

And that alone may be the best reason for moving back to a single session.

I see no reason why we can't complete the people's business with one legislative session every other year.

I also believe that a single session will focus both the executive and legislative branches more on issues that are important to the people and less on electionyear politics.

I support a constitutional amendment to return to a single legislative session every two years.

But even without an amendment, I have instructed my staff to work with commissioners to develop a capital budget for your consideration this session and stand ready to adjourn *sine die* this spring.

But before you adjourn, there is another important concern that we must address:

campaign finance reform.

This issue was overshadowed by presidential politics in the weeks following the 2000 elections, but I believe that it is critical to maintaining the integrity of our election process and re - engaging citizens in their government.

While Minnesota is doing a lot of things right, I encourage the legislature to follow through on campaign finance reforms that will address some of the flaws in our system.

My Administration's goals for campaign finance reform are:

Closing the soft money loophole.

Giving candidates the public money when they need it.

Providing better citizen access to campaign finance information on the web.

Many agree that soft money channeled through political parties to support individual campaigns is a huge problem, and it played an even more prominent role in the 2000 elections than in previous election cycles.

Much of this money is laundered through national political parties and congressional committees and we've seen our share of these "independent expenditures" in Minnesota.

While parties and advocacy groups should certainly have the opportunity to express their views on candidates' policy records, the current barrage of negative and misleading ads and mailings in the final week or two of the election is unfair to the candidates and to the people they seek to represent.

I believe that political parties and party caucuses should agree to limit their independent expenditures as a condition of receiving public money, and I encourage the Minnesota Legislature to pass a bill that will close this gaping loophole in Minnesota's law.

However, while reining in soft money will help to level the playing field, we must also give candidates public money when they really need it.

In Minnesota, legislative and constitutional officer candidates are currently given public funds following the general election if they receive a certain percentage of the total vote in that election. This financing mechanism forces many candidates to take out loans to cover campaign expenses until after the election.

This is particularly unfair to challengers since many incumbents have built up a war chest over several election cycles.

Some candidates, particularly challengers, have difficulty securing

the loan even if they demonstrate a certain level of support.

As a candidate for governor, 22 banks turned me down before I was able to find one that would give me a loan.

I support changing the timing of these direct payments to candidates.

Minnesota candidates who sign a spending limit agreement, raise the appropriate level of qualifying contributions, and have the nomination of a major political party should receive their public subsidies immediately after the primary election.

This proposal will help level the playing field by putting viable challengers in a position to run competitive campaigns.

It's also time for state campaign finance information to be available online to provide easy and timely citizen access to this information.

Campaign expenditures and contributions are public information. But in many states, including Minnesota, this data is not available on the Internet.

This proposal will help bring government back to the people by giving them the tools and information they need to made good decisions about who they want representing them.

By accomplishing these goals, we will help ensure that any person interested in elected office can run a competitive campaign and be judged on the issues rather than the size of his or her pocketbook.

If we hope to re - engage individual citizens in our political process, we must limit the financial influence of special interests in campaigns and level the playing field between challengers and incumbents.

I hope that you'll join me in sharing the responsibility for reforming our campaign finance system.

And so, to the people of this great state and to the elected leaders in this room, I submit this very ambitious agenda.

I promised the people that I would have the courage to challenge the status quo and shake up the system.

I believe that this agenda fulfills that promise, and I believe it does it in a very responsible manner.

As the business of this body begins, we can choose to debate these

bold reforms that are so important to the people of this state, or we can choose to focus on the personal, the political and the petty.

My commissioners, my staff and I worked very hard to develop these important reforms.

Let us move forward to debate them.

And I will finish by this.

I will dedicate this State of the State address to my aunt, who passed away and will be buried tomorrow.

God bless you, Aunt Betty.

Thank you very much.

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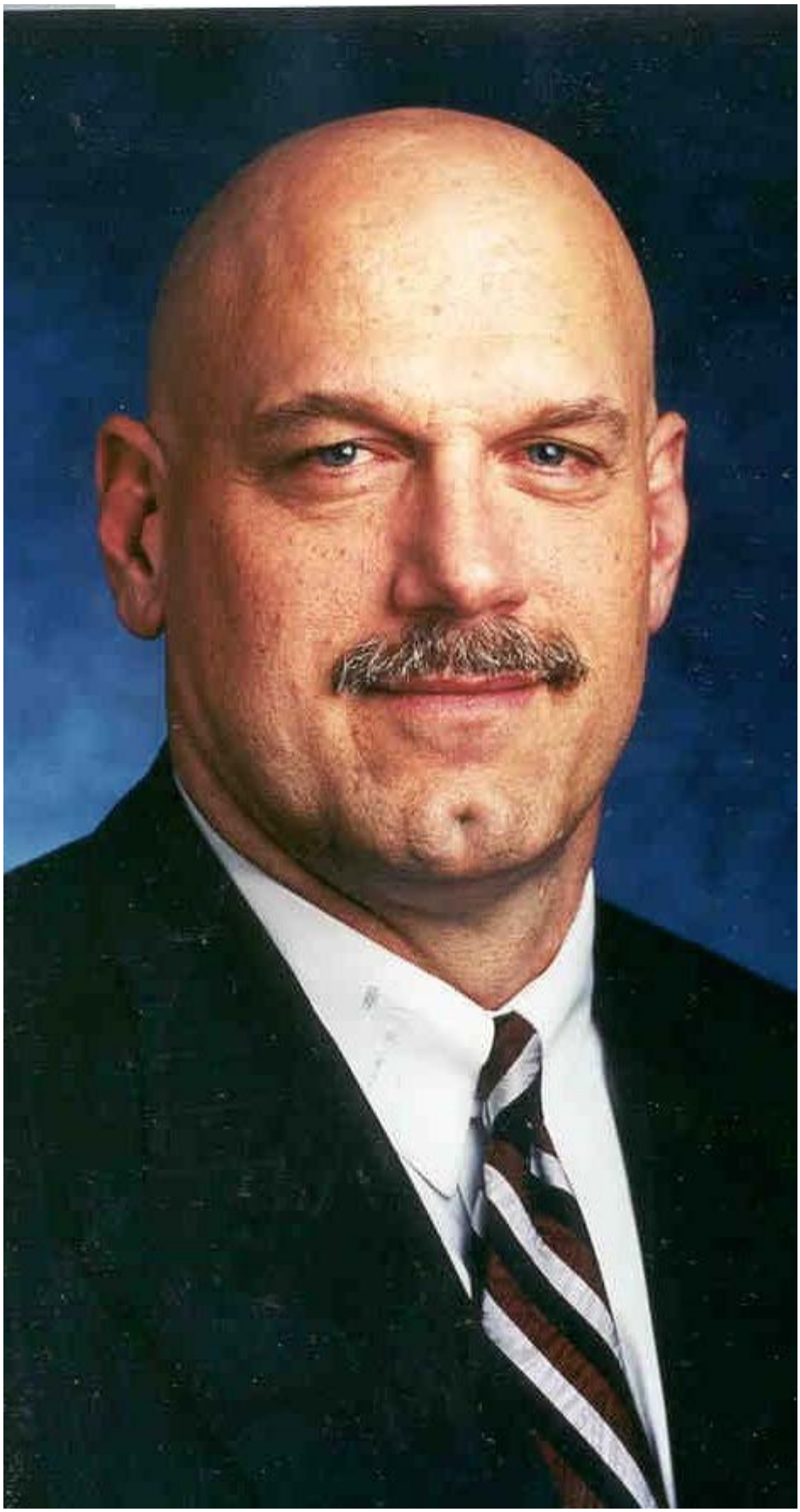
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Event: Governor Ventura welcomes broomball champs
Date: November 26, 2002



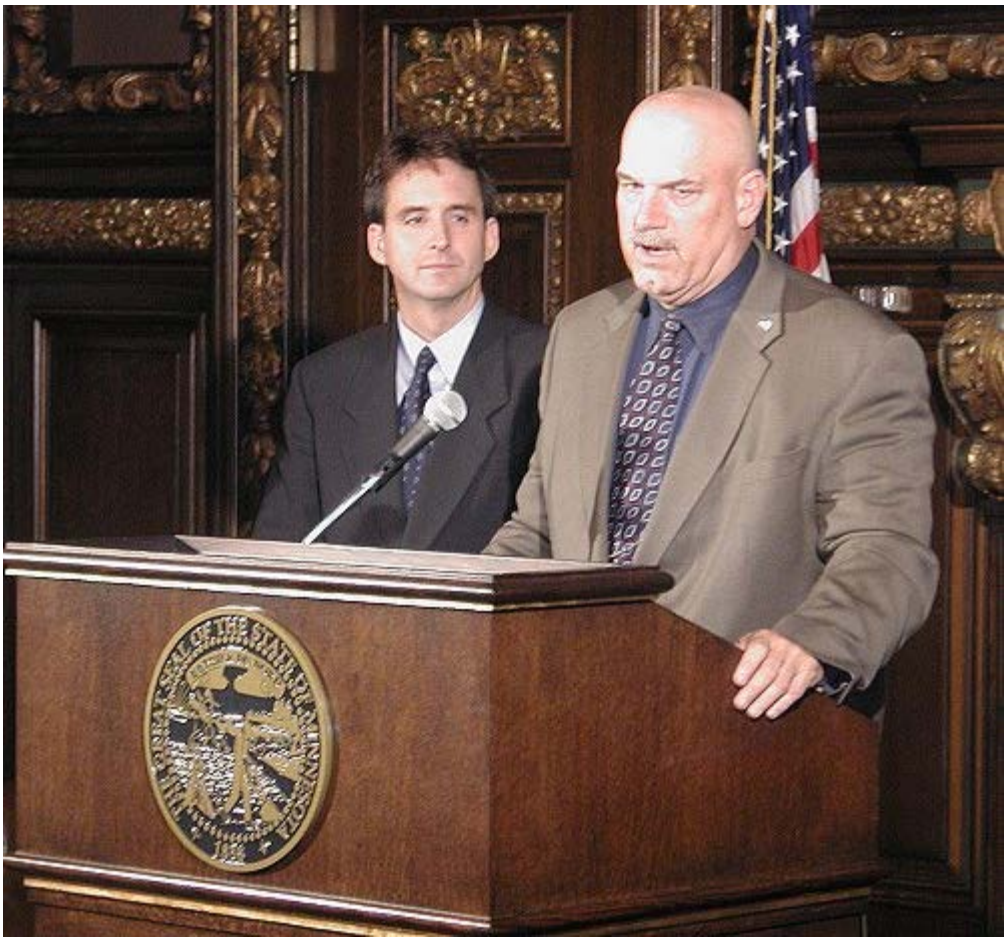
There's nothing like winter sports in Minnesota, and we always seem to produce champions. I had a chance to meet our latest champs, the USA Red broomball team. They recently won the World Challenge Broomball Cup, which was held in Blaine, Minnesota. Fifteen of the players are Minnesotans, with one being from California--but he's kind of like an honorary Minnesotan now. Congratulations guys!

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Event: Governor Ventura welcomes Governor-elect Pawlenty
Date: November 6, 2002



The day after Tim Pawlenty won the race for governor, I welcomed him and Lieutenant Governor-elect Carol Molnau to my office. We chatted for awhile, and then went out to meet the media. Governor-elect Pawlenty and I both talked about having a smooth transition and how the pendulum of power seems to have swung to the right--at least for now. Pawlenty becomes the new governor at noon on January 6th.

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Event:
Governor Greets Delegation from USS Minneapolis-St. Paul
Governor's Reception Room
September 23, 2002



As a former Navy SEAL I served my country in the armed forces, which is very much based on respecting your superior officers. I never dreamed that one day I would be a commanding officer for an entire state. That's why I am especially pleased and honored to meet active members of America's defense forces, like Commander Date Ratte and crew members form the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul, a Naval submarine based in Norfolk, Virginia.

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Event: One millionth e-filers
Governor's Reception Room
April 18, 2002



I'm certainly no expert when it comes to computers, but I know efficiency when I see it. A few days after the tax deadline, I had the opportunity to recognize Minnesota's one millionth individual and business e-filers.

Jesse Sanchez (right) and Helen George each received a plaque and a mouse pad commemorating the event.

Roughly 40% of Minnesota taxpayers filed electronically this year. In fact, we lead the nation when it comes to business e-filers, with 93% of businesses skipping the paperwork and going electronic.

E-filing is more efficient, cheaper and if you have a refund coming, you get it back much quicker, in some cases almost three months faster!

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Event: Read Across America Day
Central Park Elementary, Roseville
March 1, 2002

MORE PHOTOS !!!






Welcome To Central Park School


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Event: Tour 2001: Appleton to New Ulm
September 6-7, 2001

Governor Ventura kicked off Tour 2001: Appleton to New Ulm. Below are photos from the first day.



Governor Ventura meets with citizens of Appleton and Mayor Ronald Ronning



The governor visited four CREP sites Thursday. Here the governor poses on the Dambroten family farm



Mrs. Stancer of the Stancer family farm in Granite Falls signs an agreement, which enrolls portions of the property into the CREP program



With members of the Twin Cities press corps looking on, Governor Ventura greets a citizen during the tour



Governor Ventura takes a trailer ride out to a CREP site with farmers and CREP members



In Montevideo, Mayor Jim Curtis gave Governor Ventura a key to the city. The gentleman in the middle is Jose Artigas, a Uruguayan hero



Sixth graders from Bert Raney Elementary, Granite Falls, welcomed the governor to town with signs and well wishes

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Event: Governor thanks Revenue employees for their hard work
July 2, 2001



It was quite a sight--walking into the Minnesota Department of Revenue and seeing employees everywhere you looked. I stopped by the Harold E. Stassen Revenue Building for one reason: to say thanks. I thanked the employees for their part in putting together the historic tax reform and relief package I had signed into law two days earlier in that same lobby. After hearing from me and Commissioner Matt Smith, the employees were treated to cake and punch, and I headed off to give more thanks, this time to employees of the departments of Finance and Employee Relations.

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Event: Governor helps launch booster seat campaign
June 28, 2001



I had the honor of helping kick off a campaign that is going to save a lot of lives. It's called "Boost America!" and it is designed to remind people how important it is for children ages 4 to 8 to ride in booster seats. A new survey finds that 70% of Minnesota kids in that age range are not riding in booster seats--and that is much better than the national average!

The program plans to give away 300,000 seats, and I helped by handing out the 100,000th. Low-income famlies in Minnesota will receive about 6000 free booster seats. So if you have kids that age, buckle 'em up in a booster!

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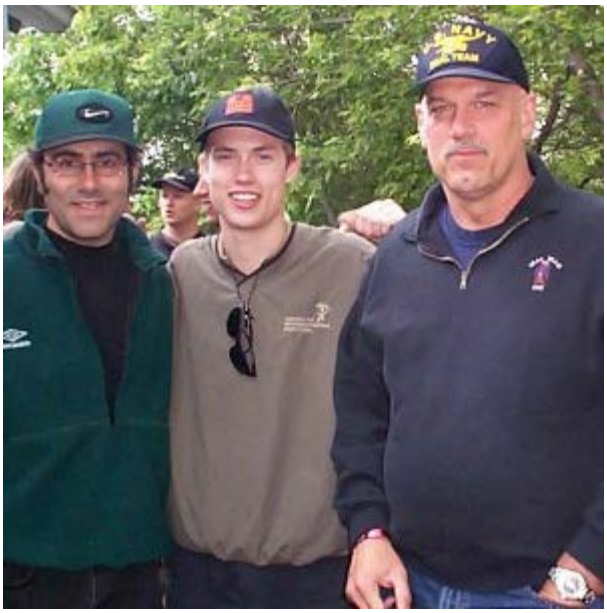
Event: Governor attends Jonny Lang bachelor party
May 21, 2001

Monday evening I dropped by Jonny Lang's bachelor party in Minnetonka.

Jonny, in my opinion, is the best blues man out there right now. I feature Jonny's music on my weekly radio show.

This guy is only 20, but he sounds like he's been playing for 40 years.

If you get the chance, like I did this past weekend, get out and see him play--I guarantee you a great show.



Pictured left to right are Ken Abdo (friend), Jonny Lang and me

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Friday

Saturday's Report

This morning I flew into Brainerd and drove the rest of the way up to Breezy Point Resort, where the festivities kicked off right away.





The first thing I did at the 2001 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener - Pequot Lakes/Breezy Point was host my weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor," from Antler's restaurant. My guests included: Commissioner Rebecca Yanisch of Trade & Economic Development, Director John Edman of Tourism, Lt. Governor Mae Schunk, and fishing opener co-chairs Dan and Donna Gottsch. We also talked with some of the great volunteers who put together this fantastic event. The Governor's Opener highlights Minnesota Tourism, which is big business in this state. In fact, I got to promote Minnesota to a Montana radio station in an interview I did right after the radio show.



Then I got to thank the organizers at a special lunch for the committee. By then, the First Lady joined me, so we could spend some time together before the community dinner. But we didn't go straight to dinner. We got to ride in a parade on our way there. It seemed like most of Northern Minnesota turned out!





Then it was time to load up on the eats. We had Minnesota wild

rice, cole slaw, underground beans and roast beef. After all that eating, I started to get a little tired. I knew I was looking at an early morning for the Fishing Opener, but I never tell the media just how early. Might as well make them earn their money!



My day was not complete until I stepped out at 10:00 to join KSTP's Tom Hauser and Lt. Governor Schunk for one last pre-opener live appearance. I told Tom I was only going to talk tourism, and he almost stayed to that topic! Almost.



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Saturday

Friday's Report



Saturday--a great day for fishing! I got out there with my guide, the esteemed Marv Koep, and Marv took care of me. He is a Hall of Famer, and it showed. I managed to land a two pound walleye, which I kept just long enough to show the media. We practice catch-and-release, so I sent my catch on its way after bringing it to the shore.



Governor Ventura takes aim for another successful Governor's Fishing Opener



It was quite a crowd waiting on the shore as the governor and his party as they headed to shore



A gaggle of media gathered on shore to await the governor's return

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Event: Governor Ventura meets George McGovern
May 7, 2001



Former Senator George McGovern met with Governor Jesse Ventura to discuss a new project to feed starving children around the world. The project has strong bipartisan support: McGovern's partner is former Senator Bob Dole. McGovern is a Democrat, Dole is a Republican, and both attempted to win the White House. McGovern says a good school lunch is the strongest magnet in the world for education. He said he would like Ventura's support for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001. McGovern now serves as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organization.

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Event: Governor sends Steinbrenner apology letter
May 4, 2001

Here is the text of the letter Governor Ventura sent Yankees owner George Steinbrenner after several Twins fans threw things at Yankees leftfielder Chuck Knoblauch during a Metrodome series:

May 4, 2001

George Steinbrenner
New York Yankees
Yankee Stadium
Bronx, New York 10451

Mr. Steinbrenner:

On behalf of the people of Minnesota and all Twins fans in the Upper Midwest, I want to apologize for the treatment of Chuck Knoblauch and the Yankees during the recent series at the Metrodome.

I'm all for letting off steam at sporting events, but in this case a few fans went too far. We have a reputation in Minnesota for having knowledgeable sports fans, and when they go to games, they should know where to draw the line.

I want Chuck Knoblauch, or any player for that matter, to feel welcome at the Metrodome. I am told that the Twins are taking steps to make sure that something like this doesn't happen again.

With that in mind, I would like to officially invite you and the team back for another series. How does October work for you?

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura
Governor

P.S. George, do you still watch wrestling?

cc: Joe Torre
Chuck Knoblauch

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Event: When Harry met Jesse
April 17, 2001



Governor Jesse Ventura entertains Harry Belafonte in the governor's office

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura sat down in an afternoon meeting with entertainer and social activist Harry Belafonte. Belafonte was at the Capitol to testify for funding of a new Roy Wilkins Center.

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Event: Governor visits cities along the Minnesota and Red rivers
April 12-13, 2001

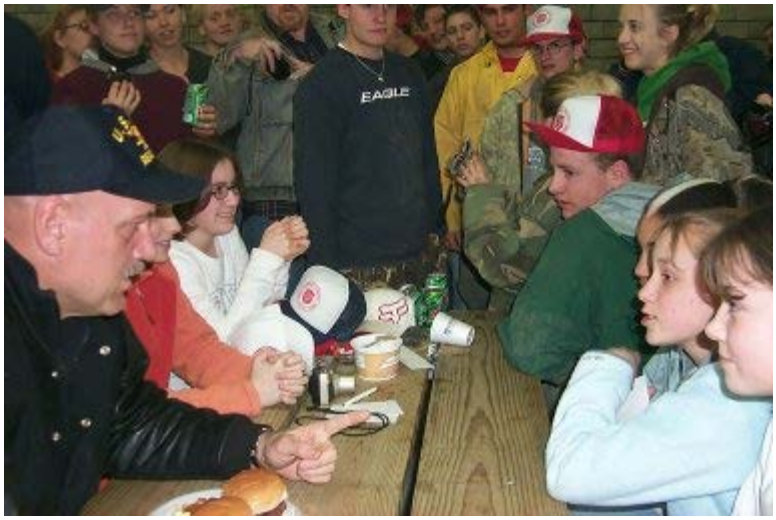


Governor Ventura spent most of his day Thursday sandbagging throughout the state

Governor Ventura spent Thursday and Friday visiting flood sites along the Minnesota River and Red rivers. Thursday morning began with a visit to Moorhead,where the governor addressed the Chamber of Commerce at Concordia College. After the 30-minute speech the governor caught up with some Concordia students who were sandbagging at a home in the area. The governor put on his boots and gloves and joined in on the "firemen's line" tossing sandbags.

The governor then flew to Granite Falls, where he met with the mayor and assisted in two sandbag sites - one with citizens, the other with the National Guard.

The next stop of the day was Breckenridge, for a dinner with the volunteers at local firehall. The Salvation Army serves food from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. while flood prevention activities are in operation.



Governor Ventura spends Thursday evening with local volunteers in Breckenridge

After dinner it was off to do some more sandbagging before heading for East Grand Forks for the evening.

On Friday morning the governor met with Mayor

Stauss and took a tour of East Grand Forks dike efforts. The tour ended downtown, where the governor conducted a national television interview with the Fox News Channel. At 11:00 a.m. the governor took to the mike and donned a headset for his weekly radio show, "Lunch with the Governor" from the Blue Moose. Kevin Leuer, Director of Minnesota's Emergency Mangement, was the governor's guest as they discussed flood conditions. The governor concluded the show by taking questions from the audience.

After the show it was back to St. Paul, where legislative bills were awaiting his signature.

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Event: Killebrew tells governor about new charitable organization
April 10, 2001


Governor Ventura and Harmon Killebrew

It's not often someone with 573 home runs stops by the Governor's Office, so it was a special honor for Governor Ventura to welcome former Minnesota Twins great Harmon Killebrew.

Killebrew met with the governor to discuss "Harmon's Gift," his philanthropic effort to benefit Gillette Children's Hospital. The venture's inaugural event will be at the Minneapolis Marriott on June 23, 2001, Killebrew's 65th birthday. For more information, call Harmon's Gift at 612-298-1863.

Governor Ventura said he will attend the event and later recounted happy boyhood memories of riding his bicycle to old Met Stadium to watch the great Twins teams of the 1960s.

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Event: Governor shows off gift of jackal art to Capitol press corps
March 30, 2001

Governor Jesse Ventura was so pleased by a gift from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, he wanted to share it with the reporters who cover him in the Capitol.


Anubis, the jackal-headed God of the Dead

The governor invited the reporters into Communications Director John Wodele's office to show them the gift: a photograph of the Art Institute's bronze figure of Anubis, the jackal-headed God of the Dead. Governor Ventura also read the letter from Art Institute director Evan Maurer that accompanied the photograph. In it, Dr. Maurer thanked the governor for bringing his radio show to the Institute recently, and for supporting the museum. It was an especially light-hearted gathering, with the governor pointing out that the statue even appeared to be carrying a microphone!


Governor Ventura shows Capitol reporters the jackel-headed God of the Dead

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Event: Governor Ventura meets Maryland basketball coach Gary Williams
March 29, 2001


Maryland basketball coach Gary Williams presents Governor Ventura with a Maryland shirt

With a hearty handshake, Governor Jesse Ventura welcomed Maryland basketball coach Gary Williams to Minnesota on the Thursday before the Final Four.

Coach Williams, a longtime fan of the governor, asked to drop by for a quick visit. The governor was able to free up a few minutes in his schedule and invited the coach into his office. Governor Ventura wished Coach Williams well, as Maryland takes on Duke in Saturday's second semifinal game at the Metrodome.

This is Maryland's second trip to Minnesota in as many years. Last year the Terrapins were knocked out of the NCAA tournament during regional play at the Metrodome.

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Event: Governor visits Rochester, Minnesota
Friday, March 9, 2001



I began my March 9 trip to Rochester with the airing of "Lunch with the Governor" from the Kahler Hotel, a Rochester landmark. I hosted the show in front of a live audience of business and community leaders. Much of the show was devoted to the my tax and budget agenda.

Earlier in the day I had spoken at a service for the late the Governor Harold Stassen, so I was thinking about him as I opened the radio show with a tribute.

I just told listeners how much I admired Governor Stassen and Irelated how the Stassen family had presented me with a hand-written thank you note that had been found in the late governor's personal affects.

The note was an expression of gratitude from the former governor for being invited to the State of State of Address. I was quite touched and am going to have that letter framed.

GOVERNOR VISITS INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER IN PINE ISLAND

I later spent 30 minutes visiting with the residents of Evergreen Place, a municipally owned independent living center in the city of Pine Island last week. Finance Commissioner Pam Wheelock and Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith accompanied me.

I chatted with residents and staff for 30 minutes on a variety of subjects before leaving to take a stroll down Main Street in Pine Island. While on Main Street, I visited a local meat market, a dental office, a Subway Sandwich shop, a barbershop and an

insurance agency. Because the visit was not announced, Pine Island residents seemed a little surprised to see a governor in this small town on a Friday afternoon.

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Event: Governor Ventura checks out Technology Day at the Capitol
Thursday, February 22, 2001



The governor checks out an Office of Technology display during Technology Day at the Capitol

I took a trip into the future without leaving the Capitol on February 22, when I toured Technology Day displays just outside my office.

I could see that the future is now It's amazing the number of ways we're using technology to better serve the people. Talk about smart spending. Commissioner David Fisher of the Department of Administration showed me around, stopping at a number of demonstrations of making government more accessible. I introduced Commissioner Fisher as "Minnesota's Chief Technology Officer," because he really is our main person in this area.

I consider the $102 million I have budgeted for technology initiatives throughout state government strategic spending. This is an area where I expect a lot of bang for the buck.

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Event: Governor Ventura visits St. Peter, listens to citizens
Thursday, February 15-16, 2001


Governor gets a "haircut"

I spent much of February 15-16 in St. Peter, Minnesota, talking with residents about my budget proposals. I started on main street, visiting several businesses, including George Lesnar's Barber Shop, where George has been cutting hair for more than 50 years! In addition to talking about serious business, I asked George if he was a relative of former Minnesota Gopher wrestler Brock Lesnar. George said that they indeed were relatives.

After finishing my main street walk at a packed American Legion Post, I attended a dinner hosted by Gustavus Adolphus President Axel Steuer in the President's Dining Room. I discussed my budget plans with local officials and fielded questions on the impact it would have on the school and the region.

Governor Ventura visits with Gustavus students

On his way out, I wanted to make sure I talked with some Gustavus students, so after ordering a slice of pepperoni pizza, I sat down with students in the cafeteria for more than an hour and discussed topics that ranged from higher education funding to high school football.

The following morning I met with local editorial boards, and broadcast my weekly radio show, *Lunch with the Governor*, from the farm of Willis and Rachel Anthony, just outside of St. Peter.

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Event: Weekly radio show, *Lunch with the Governor,* from the Guthrie
Friday, February 9, 2001

The radio show was once again on the road as we broadcasted from a staff retreat of 1,000 state employees at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. I opened the show talking about higher education funding, and later opened the phone lines and took calls for a segment called, *Stump the Administration.* Callers were asked to pose questions about state government and the Ventura Administration's initiatives. Topics included: primary seat belt legislation, the mailing costs of the sales tax rebate, and education funding for K-12 and higher ed. This was the largest crowd to watch the radio show in the two years it has been on the air.

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Event: Governor takes morning shift at WLOL-FM, Minneapolis
Wednesday, February 7, 2001

I rolled out of bed early and spent two and a half hours on the morning shift at WLOL-FM on February 7. I co-hosted with Lee Valsvik, filling in at Classic Hits 100 for Alan Kable, who was on vacation.

I took the mike from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m., playing classic songs from some of my favorite artists, including Humble Pie, Bob Seger, Johnny Lang, The Rolling Stones and many others.

Gov. Ventura signs t-shirts at the WLOL studios

But it wasn't all music business. I also fielded calls about everything from my budget, tax cuts and education, to funding for the Governor's Residence and more.

I had a great time. I loved going back to my radio roots and spinning all those excellent tunes.

During a break in the show, I crossed the hall and did a brief interview with KOOL 108.

Future radio gigs? You never know. It's in my blood.

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Event: Governor Ventura visits Worthington, Minnesota
Thursday, January 25, 2001

My tour of southern Minnesota included a stop at the Prairie Expo in Worthington on January 25, where I shared details of my biennial budget and stopped to visit with citizens. I also posed for several photos with everyone from the Prairie Expo staff and Mrs. Nobles County, to local law enforcement officials and several Worthington residents. Then, accompanied by commissioners Pam Wheelock, Matt Smith and Jim Bernstein, and Dean Barkley, Director of Minnesota Planning, we raced back to the airport and flew to Austin, Minnesota.

I really felt energized by the turnout in Worthington and I especially enjoyed touring the Prairie Expo and meeting the many citizens who attended the event.

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Event: Governor says farewell to troops headed to the Persian Gulf
Friday, January 19, 2001

On Friday, January 19, I headed to Rochester to wish 100 Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers luck as they left for the Persian Gulf.

Governor Ventura speaks to Minnesota Guard troops just before they head for the Persian Gulf

The soldiers are members of Rochester's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry. They are based in units around the state, including Rochester, Mankato, Winona, Owatonna, West St. Paul and Albert Lea.

"You have been training for this for more than a year, and we're very proud of you," I told the troops. Then I kidded with them a little bit. "Look on the bright side," I said, "you'll get a jumpstart on your tan."

Members of the company will spend five months in both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, performing various security missions.

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Event: State Senator Bob Lessard joins the Independence Party
Wednesday, January 3, 2001


Senator Lessard and Gov. Jesse Ventura at the Capitol

State Senator Bob Lessard of International Falls announced in early January that he is joining me as a member of the Independence Party of Minnesota.

"I've always been independent," joked Senator Lessard. "I'm just getting rid of a 't' and adding a 'c-e.'"

I told Senator Lessard I welcome him, and expect him to be treated as any other party minority leader in the Senate. After all, he's a caucus of one, but he's still a caucus. He's always been a straightforward speaker and an independent thinker, and that's why he'll be able to confer with me anytime he needs to.

The announcement came about one hour before the Legislature convened its 2001-2002 session.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 23, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO URBAN INITIATIVE BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of Julie Causey and Val Vargas to the Urban Initiative Board.

Causey, St. Paul, is Vice Chair of Western Bank in St. Paul. In that capacity she works on business development, community outreach and strategic planning. Julie earned her MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She is involved in community organizations such as the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation and People Incorporated.

Vargas, Fridley, is the CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota. The goal of the only Minnesota Hispanic Chamber is to serve the business interests of the entire Hispanic community in Minnesota. She received her MS in accounting from the University of Oklahoma. She has been involved in the Minnesota Minority Development Council.

The Urban Initiative Board investigates and evaluates methods to enhance urban development, particularly methods relating to economic diversification through minority business enterprises and job creation for minority and other persons in low-income areas.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of Karla Blomberg, Andrea Hart Kajer and Mark Suess to the Governor's Residence Council.

Blomberg, New Brighton, is a realtor. She has served on the Governor's Residence Council for four years. Blomberg is the President of Make-A-Wish Foundation Minnesota and is the past president of Make-A-Wish America and Make-A-Wish International. She is active in many other community organizations.

Hart Kajer, Edina, works for the City of Minneapolis. She has served on the Governor's Residence Council for four years. Hart Kajer brings knowledge of the legislative process and fundraising experience to the board. She also serves on the Ripley Foundation and is a volunteer for the Ann Bancroft Foundation.

Suess, St. Cloud, has 20 years experience as an interior designer. He is being reappointed to a third term on the Governor's Residence Council. Suess has served on the St. Cloud Arts Council and has volunteered doing fundraising work for the St. Cloud Hospital, MN Multiple Sclerosis Society and St. John's Preparatory School.

The Governor's Residence Council develops an overall restoration plan for the state ceremonial building (Governor's Residence) and surrounding grounds. The council solicits contributions to maintain and improve the public areas of the building.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Dawn Bly to the Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention.

Bly, Fosston, has a background in early childhood education. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and has worked in elementary schools for 11 years. She has been involved in many educational programs and has served as a Grant Reviewer for the US Department of Education and Department of Children Families and Learning.

The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention advises, assists and recommends policies to the Governor and Minnesota Departments of Commerce, Children Families and Learning, Health, Human Services and Economic Security regarding Minnesota's comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of early intervention service for young children under age five with disabilities and their families.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO RACING COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of William Robinson and Lynn Johnson to the MN Racing Commission.

Robinson, Long Lake, is the founder and chairman of the board for Robinson Labs Inc. He has owned and raced thoroughbred horses at Canterbury Park. Robinson replaces Warren Peiffer for a term expiring June 30, 2007.

Johnson, Minneapolis, is a consultant in planning and construction project management. He is also involved in projects to purify air and water. Johnson replaces Barbara Halper for a term expiring June 30, 2005.

The MN Racing Commission licenses persons and organizations to operate racetracks, conduct horse racing, conduct pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, enforces and collects all applicable taxes and license fees, establishes a Minnesota Breeders' Fund and operates a card club. The commission consists of nine members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, December 13, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Clifford on December 31, 2002. The Supreme Court continued the chambers of this judgeship for Center City in Chisago County. The finalists are Susan Drabek, Richard Ilkka and John McBride.

Drabek, Lino Lakes, is an assistant Chisago County attorney, a position she has held since 1995. She was an assistant Ramsey County attorney from 1994 to 1995 and a law clerk in Ramsey County from 1993 to 1994. Drabek earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1994 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville in 1990.

Ilkka, Stillwater, has been a self-employed attorney since 1990. He has also been the city attorney and prosecutor for the city of Oakdale since 1993. Ilkka was an associate attorney in the Magnuson Law Firm in Stillwater from 1989 to 1990 and a Tenth Judicial District law clerk from 1987 to 1989. Ilkka earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1986 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

McBride, Stillwater, is a senior attorney with the law firm of Lommen, Nelson, Cole and Stageberg in Minneapolis. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1991. McBride was a senior shareholder with the law firm of Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon and Vogt in St. Paul from 1989 to 1991, an attorney and president of the law firm of Donlin, McBride and Goetteman in St. Paul from 1982 to 1989, a staff attorney for The St. Paul Companies in Bloomington from 1980 to 1982 and an associate attorney for the

law firm of Geimer and Rice in St. Louis Park from 1978 to 1980. McBride earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1977 and his bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri in 1975.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 36 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 9, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Third Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Gerard Ring on December 31, 2002. The Supreme Court has certified this judgeship to Governor Jesse Ventura. This position will continue to be chambered in the city of Wabasha in Wabasha County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Third Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via E-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and references must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, December 16, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Friday, December 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CORRIE TO GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Dr. Bruce Corrie, Ph.D., to the Governor's Workforce Development Council.

Corrie, St. Paul, is a professor of economics at Concordia University in St. Paul. He chaired Governor Ventura's Working Group on Minority Business Development and was appointed by Governor Ventura to the Minnesota Academy of Entrepreneurs. Corrie is a member of the National Advisory Council of the United States Small Business Administration and chairs its district advisory council in Minnesota. Corrie replaces Wendy Brower, who resigned, as a representative of community-based organizations to complete a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2004.

The Governor's Workforce Development Council coordinates the development, implementation, and evaluation of the statewide education and employment transitions system and Minnesota youth services programs. The council consists of 32 members, including 28 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 2, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS PRICE TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Senator Len Price to the Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission.

Price, Woodbury, has served as a member of the Minnesota Senate since 1991 and was a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1983 to 1991. Price, a retired teacher, is currently a legislative appointee to the Capitol 2005 Commission. Price replaces Rick Nelson on the commission.

The Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission was created by Executive Order to develop plans for the centennial celebration of the State Capitol in 2005. The commission consists of 15 members, including 11 appointed by the governor and four appointed by the Legislature.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 2, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MARK TO FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Kevin Mark to a First Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is the fifth of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on January 1, 2003, for the city of Red Wing in Goodhue County. 31 people applied for this judicial position.

Mark has been a self-employed attorney in Red Wing since 1995. He was an attorney with the Holst, Vogel, Erdmann and Vogel law firm in Red Wing from 1979 to 1995, as an associate attorney from 1979 to 1985 and a partner from 1985 to 1995. Mark earned his juris doctorate degree from Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato (then known as Mankato State University) magna cum laude in 1975.

"When I asked Kevin why he wanted to be a judge, he told me that he has a strong belief in public service and that as a judge he can have a positive impact in the community," Governor Ventura said. "Kevin has demonstrated a commitment to public service in his work on the Red Wing School Board and the many other civic organizations he has been a part of in Red Wing. I know he will carry this commitment to public service with him to the bench."

Mark has been a member of the Red Wing School Board since 1985 and chair since 1993. He is also chair of the Red Wing Joint Powers Board and president of the Hedin-Hartnagel Memorial Fund Board of Directors. Mark has also been an assembly representative with the Minnesota State High School League, past fund drive chair and ongoing volunteer legal counsel for the Red Wing United Way Board, was president of the Red Wing Country Club and served on the Red Wing Kiwanis Club, Y-Pals Advisory Board and numerous

committees at the First Lutheran Church of Red Wing.

Mark, 49, was born in Red Wing and lives there with his wife, Cyd. They have three children, Kendall, 12, Chloe, 9, and Elle, 6.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 21, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) - The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a First Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on January 1, 2003, for the city of Red Wing in Goodhue County. The finalists are Leo Brisbois, James Keeler, Jr., and Kevin Mark.

Brisbois, Eagan, is an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm Stich, Angell and Kreidler, a position he has held since 1991. He is also an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association in Minneapolis and has served as an adjunct professor at Hamline University, and an attorney and prosecutor for the U. S. Army JAG Corps in Germany. Brisbois earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1987 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Hamline University in 1984.

Keeler, Chanhassen, is an assistant Hennepin county attorney in Minneapolis, a position he has held since 1996. He was an assistant Carver county attorney in Chaska from 1990 to 1996, an assistant Sherburne county attorney in Elk River in 1990, an assistant Mankato city attorney from 1988 to 1990 and an associate attorney with Schwartz and Associates in Richfield from 1986 to 1988. Keeler earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1986 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1982.

Mark, Red Wing, has been a self-employed attorney in Red Wing since 1995. He was an attorney with the Holst, Vogel, Erdmann and Vogel law firm in Red Wing from 1979 to 1995, as an associate

attorney from 1979 to 1985 and a partner from 1985 to 1995. Mark earned his juris doctorate degree from Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato (then known as Mankato State University) magna cum laude in 1975.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 31 applications for this judicial position.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HOLMSTOEN TO STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sandy Holmstoen to the State Advisory Council on Mental Health.

Holmstoen, Bloomington, is a respiratory therapist at Midway Hospital. She is a parent advocate with the PACER Center, a health care advocate with the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health and co-chair of the council's Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health. Holmstoen replaces Beth Roberts as a parent member to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The State Advisory Council on Mental Health advises the governor, the legislature and state agencies about policy, programs and services affecting people with mental illness. The council consists of 30 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BENSON TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Duane Benson to the Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission.

Benson, Lanesboro, is the executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, a position he has held since 1994. He was a member of the Minnesota Senate from 1980 through 1994 serving as the Senate Republican Leader for three terms. Benson also played 11 seasons in the National Football League. Benson replaces Lila Moberg on the commission.

The Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission was created by Executive Order to develop plans for the centennial celebration of the State Capitol in 2005. The commission consists of 15 members, including 11 appointed by the governor and four appointed by the legislature.

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 8, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS GAVIN TO PUC

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Ellen Gavin to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Gavin has been a telecommunications attorney in private practice since 2000. She was an assistant attorney general from 1994 to 2000 representing the Minnesota Departments of Commerce and Public Service in telecommunications, gas and electric regulatory matters that came before the PUC. Gavin was a staff attorney with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services from 1984 to 1988 and again from 1993 to 1994, a senior policy analyst with the New York State Department of Public Service in the Consumer Services Division from 1990 to 1992, and a staff attorney with the Public Utility Law Project from 1988 to 1990. Gavin earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York in 1980.

"Ellen impresses me with her intelligence and analytical skills," Governor Ventura said. "She will be able to sort through the complex issues that come before the PUC and make sense of them."

Gavin, 44, was born in Beverly, Massachusetts and lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Bruce Kelley. Gavin replaces Edward Garvey, who resigned, to complete a six-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Public Utilities Commission regulates the rates and services of electric, natural gas, and telephone companies through public hearings, contested case hearings, rule-making hearings and resolving informal complaints. The commission, which has legislative and quasi-judicial functions, consists of five members appointed by the governor. Commission members are compensated $85,880 annually.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 8, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Peggy Ann Anderholm, John Molinaro, Leah Schwachtgen, Ray Waldron and Jan Wiessner and the reappointment of Wayne DeBruin and Roger Hale to the Governor's Workforce Development Council.

Anderholm, Warroad, is the director of training and development at Marvin Windows and Doors in Warroad. Anderholm replaces Peter Michalowski as a representative of business for a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

DeBruin, Rochester, is the director of human resources for Crenlo, Inc. in Rochester. DeBruin, who has served on the council since 1999, is appointed as a representative of business to another three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

Hale, Minneapolis, is the retired chairman of the Tennant Company. Hale, who is currently chair of the Workforce Development Council, is appointed as a representative of business to another three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

Molinaro, Fergus Falls, is vice president program for West Central Initiative. Molinaro replaces Bob Niemiec as a representative of community-based organizations for a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

Schwachtgen, Clarkfield, is an agricultural educator at Montevideo Senior High School. Schwachtgen replaces Tracy Beckman for a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

Waldron, St. Anthony, is president of Minnesota AFL-CIO. Waldron replaces Bernard Brommer as a representative of labor for a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2005.

Wiessner, New Brighton, is a commissioner on the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and is the representative on Ramsey County's Workforce Investment Board. Wiessner replaces Mary Haug, who resigned, as a representative of local-elected officials to complete a three-year term that expires on June 30, 2004.

The Governor's Workforce Development Council that coordinates the development, implementation, and evaluation of the statewide education and employment transitions system and Minnesota youth services programs. The council consists of 32 members, including 28 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 7, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS EIGHT TO COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Michael Collins, Reginald Edwards, Duchess Harris, Wilfred Harris, Jacqueline Johnson, Kevin Lindsey, Mohamud Noor and Rosalind Sullivan to the Council on Black Minnesotans.

Collins, St. Paul, is president of DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis. Collins replaces James Griffin for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Edwards, Mankato, is executive director of the Region Nine Development Commission in Mankato. Edwards replaces Abdulwoli Issa for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Duchess Harris, Vadnais Heights, is an assistant professor of African-American Studies and Political Science at Macalester College in St. Paul. Harris replaces Leslie Green to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Wilfred Harris, Brooklyn Park, is founder and president of YES Enterprises, a job placement and staffing business. Harris replaces Sampson Wilson as a representative of West Africa for a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Johnson, Rochester, is a clinical patient counselor to patients and families at the Mayo Clinic's liver transplant unit in Rochester. Johnson replaces Natonia Johnson for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Lindsey, St. Paul, is chief operating officer for Axis, Inc., a company that provides intermediate care facilities and in-home support programs for medically fragile and/or severely mentally retarded persons. Lindsey replaces Paul Bryant to complete a four-

year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Noor, Minneapolis, is a transition team leader for determining MFIP hardship extensions in the Hennepin County Health and Human Services Department. Noor is appointed to a new position as a representative of East Africa for a term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Sullivan, Minneapolis, is a law clerk to Hennepin County District Court Judge LaJune Lange. Sullivan replaces Tina Jackson to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Council on Black Minnesotans makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature on improving the economic and social conditions of African American and Native African Minnesotans. The council consists of 17 members, including 13 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, November 5, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Clifford on December 31, 2002. The Supreme Court has certified the chambers of this judgeship for Center City in Chisago County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Tenth Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via E-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, November 25, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the Commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHERER TO SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of John Scherer to a Seventh District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect January 1, 2003, for the city of Little Falls in Morrison County. Eighteen people applied for this judicial position.

Scherer is a shareholder with the St. Cloud law firm of Rajkowski Hansmeier, Ltd. He has been an attorney with the firm and its predecessor, Donohue, Rajkowski and Hansmeier since 1981. Scherer earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree cum laude from St. John's University in Collegeville in 1977.

"John is the total package. He excelled in school, has a great reputation as a lawyer and has been active in the community as well as in legal associations," Governor Ventura said. "He is ideally-suited to be a judge."

Scherer volunteers with the Central Minnesota Legal Services Volunteer Attorney Program, and received its 2002 Seventh District Volunteer Attorney of the Year award. He is also active in the Minnesota State Bar Association, Stearns/Benton County Bar Association and the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association, where he served as president. Scherer has also been a high school mock trial judge and a volunteer teacher and coach with the St. John's and St. Benedict's College mock trial teams and was the founder and coach of the St. Cloud Youth Hockey Association's girl's hockey program.

Scherer, 47, was born in Minneapolis and lives in St. Cloud with

his wife, Jane. They have three children, Troy, 24, Ben, 20 and Liz, 18.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, October 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS KAHN TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Judith Kahn to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC).

Kahn, St. Louis Park, is the director of the Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health at the University of Minnesota. The institute was established to assist state, county, local and community-based agencies with prevention strategies for at-risk youth. Kahn replaces Mary Murphy to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee awards grants and carries out the state plan of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The committee consists of 18 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, October 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Nalani McCutcheon to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee.

McCutcheon, Kenyon, is the executive director of the River Bend Nature Center in Faribault, and was the executive director, program manager and southern regional educator with St. Olaf College's School Nature Area Project. McCutcheon replaces Bea Hoffmann, who resigned, to complete a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee advises the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) on a strategic plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Citizens' Advisory Committee consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, October 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ANDERSON TO STATE ARTS BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Matthew Anderson to the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Anderson, Little Canada, is an assistant Hennepin County attorney in Minneapolis. He also serves as an elected member of the Little Canada City Council, is president of the Ramsey County Library Board of Trustees and volunteers for the Page Education Foundation. Anderson replaces Lorraine LeBlanc as a member residing in the Fourth Congressional District to complete a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota State Arts Board is dedicated to making the arts available to all citizens of Minnesota through a series of grants, programs and services. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, October 9, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a First Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on January 1, 2003, for the city of Red Wing in Goodhue County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the First Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this position must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Thursday, October 31, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ROSEN TO COMMISSION SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sharon Marion Rosen to the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People.

Rosen, New Munich, grew up in the Melrose area and attended the Minnesota School for the Deaf. She has held several officer positions with the St. Cloud Area Deaf Club and is a trained home visitor for the Shared Reading Program and Deaf Mentor Program. Rosen replaces Kathy Fischer to complete a three-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People advocates on behalf of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Minnesotans to ensure equal access to services, programs and opportunities. The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF INVENTION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Mary Mathews and Andy Wells to the Board of Invention.

Mathews, Virginia, is president of the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, Inc. in Virginia. She is a board member and past chair of the National Association for Enterprise Opportunity and chairs the executive committee of the Alliance for Minnesota Microenterprise. Mathews replaces Rodrigo Lievano as a member residing in the Eighth Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Wells, Bemidji, is president and owner of Wells Technology, Inc. in Bemidji and was a professor of Industrial Technology at Bemidji State University for 17 years. He is currently the deputy clerk of the Eckles Town Board. Wells replaces Steven Levinson as a member residing in the Seventh Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Board of Invention encourages the creation, performance and appreciation of invention in the state. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor including one from each congressional district and three at-large.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CARTER TO RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Dr. Darrell Carter to the Rural Health Advisory Committee.

Carter, Granite Falls, is a family physician at the Granite Falls Clinic and a clinical professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He is a member of numerous professional associations, including the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, where he was instrumental in establishing the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) program, which teaches emergency and critical care to rural health care providers. Carter earned his doctorate (1971) and undergraduate (1967) degrees from the University of Minnesota. Carter replaces Dr. G. Howard Hayes, Jr., who resigned, as a representative of medical doctors to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Rural Health Advisory Committee advises the commissioner of health and other state agencies on rural health issues. The committee consists of 15 members appointed by the governor, all of whom must reside outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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For immediate release:
Friday, September 13, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS WERNICK TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Minneapolis, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Mark Wernick to a Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Delila Pierce on October 1, 2002. The commission received 58 applications for this judicial vacancy.

Wernick is a self-employed attorney in Minneapolis, a position he held from 1977 to 1985 and again since 1987. He was an attorney and partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Mauzy and Wernick from 1985 to 1987 and an attorney in the Hennepin County Public Defender's office in Minneapolis from 1975 to 1977. Wernick earned his juris doctorate degree from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa in 1975 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

"This appointment may be my last to the Hennepin County bench," Governor Ventura said. "I am appointing Mark to this position because he, like my other appointments to this bench, has a wealth of experience in the practice of law, is a hard worker and has a good judicial demeanor. He also has the respect of the legal community."

Wernick is past president of Legal Rights Center, Inc., and the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He chaired the Criminal Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association and co-chaired the Criminal Law Section of the Hennepin County Bar Association. Wernick also serves on the Sabathani Community Center Board of Directors and the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission Drug Policy Subcommittee. Wernick has been named a "Superlawyer" by *Minnesota Law & Politics* every year since its inception, and for the past two years has been named among the top 100 in the state. He has been certified as a criminal trial specialist by the National Board of Trial

Advocacy since 1985.

Wernick, 52, was born in Minneapolis and resides there with his wife, Nancy Entwistle.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, September 5, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO MINERAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of David Edmunds and Frank Ongaro and the reappointment of Ernest Lehmann to the Mineral Coordinating Committee. All three are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Edmunds, Burnsville, is vice president and general manager of the materials division of Edward Kraemer and Sons, and is responsible for mining operations at the Burnsville Quarry and the Mesabi Range. Edmunds replaces Jonathan Wilmshurst as a representative of the industrial minerals industries.

Lehmann, Minneapolis, is the founder and CEO of North Central Ventures Inc. and of Ernest K. Lehmann and Associates, Inc. Lehmann, who has served one four-year term on the committee, is reappointed as a representative of nonferrous metallic minerals.

Ongaro, Duluth, is president of the Iron Mining Association of Minnesota. Ongaro replaces Ann Glumac as a representative of the iron ore and taconite industry.

The Mineral Coordinating Committee plans for diversified mineral development. The committee consists of 10 members, including three appointed by the governor.

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Wednesday, September 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHMIDT TO BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Timothy Schmidt to the Minnesota Board of Social Work.

Schmidt, Brainerd, is a community development director with the Region 5 Development Commission in Staples. Schmidt replaces Debra Ledvina, who resigned, to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The Minnesota Board of Social Work adopts and enforces rules for licensure of social workers and regulates their professional conduct. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, September 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON TO VETERANS HOMES BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Jeffery Johnson to the Minnesota Veterans Homes Board of Directors.

Johnson, Alpha, is the Jackson County Veteran Service Officer and was a hospital administrator at the Jackson Medical Center. Johnson, who served in the U.S. Army, is active in the Jackson American Legion Post 130, currently as the vice commander. He is also the Second District POW/MIA Chair, a member of VFW Post 900 and the Viet Nam Veterans of America. Johnson replaces Gordon Baden to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes Board of Directors determines policy and adopts, amends, and repeals rules for the governance of the Minnesota veterans' homes. The board consists of nine voting members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, August 28, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Seventh Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on January 1, 2003, for the city of Little Falls in Morrison County. The finalists are Kris Davick-Halfen, John Scherer and Leonard Weiler.

Davick-Halfen, Long Prairie, has been a child support magistrate (formerly known as a contract administrative law judge) since 1998 and is also a mediator, guardian ad litem and an independent hearing officer. She was an assistant Morrison County attorney from 1989 to 1997, a part-time assistant Wadena County attorney from 1985 to 1989, as well as a private practitioner in Wadena from 1986 to 1989 and an attorney with the Wadena law firm of Peltoniemi, Johnson and Majors from 1985 to 1986. Davick-Halfen earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in Grand Forks in 1985 and her bachelor of arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1981.

Scherer, St. Cloud, is a shareholder with the St. Cloud law firm of Rajkowski Hansmeier, Ltd. He has been an attorney with the firm and its predecessor, Donohue, Rajkowski and Hansmeier since 1981. Scherer earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree cum laude from St. John's University in Collegeville in 1977.

Weiler, Sartell, is an assistant public defender and the managing attorney of the Seventh Judicial District public defender's office in St. Cloud. He has been the managing attorney since 1996 and an assistant public defender since 1991. He was also the head law clerk and investigator with the Ramsey County public defender's office in St. Paul from 1990 to 1991. Weiler earned his juris doctorate degree

from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1991 and his bachelor of arts degree from Moorhead State University in 1985.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 18 applications for this judicial position.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, August 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO CHICANO/LATINO AFFAIRS COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Luis Bartolomei, Elia Bruggeman, Xavier Escobedo, Rick Johnson and Osvaldo Raimondo-Franco and the reappointment of Ruben Mendez to the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People.

Bartolomei, Edina, is an attorney with the University of Minnesota Student Legal Service and an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law. Bartolomei replaces Juan Rivas as a member from the Third Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Bruggeman, Sleepy Eye, is the principal at Sleepy Eye High School. Bruggeman replaces Diana Olvedo Muqoz as a member from the Second Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Escobedo, St. Paul, is a community services representative with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Escobedo replaces William Diaz as a member from the Fourth Congressional District to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Johnson, Stillwater, is a consumer insights manager with General Mills and serves on its Hispanic Employees Network Steering Committee. Johnson replaces Claudia Saavedra, who resigned, as an at-large member to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Mendez, Hawley, is a former migrant worker who is active in his community. Mendez, who has served one term on the council, is appointed to another four-year term as a member from the Seventh Congressional District that expires on January 2, 2006.

Raimondo-Franco, Minnetonka, recently moved to the Twin Cities

from Illinois, where he was a research scholar at the University of Illinois. Raimondo-Franco replaces Rafael Saldaqa, who resigned, as an at-large member to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People advises the governor and legislature on issues faced by Chicano and Latino people in the state, including the unique challenges encountered by Chicano and Latino migrant agricultural workers. The council consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, August 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DIXON TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sarah Dixon to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC).

Dixon, Faribault, has worked in youth development for the Faribault Public Schools the past 16 years. She is the director of the Minnesota Promise Fellow Program - Delivering on America's Promise to Youth and is the past co-facilitator of the Alliance Coordinating Team (formerly known as the Minnesota Alliance with Youth). Dixon replaces Darina Siv to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee awards grants and carries out the state plan of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The committee consists of 18 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, August 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS RANUM TO HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Michael Ranum to the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority.

Ranum, Circle Pines, is a certified public accountant and is chief financial and administrative officer with the Hazelden Foundation in Center City. He previously was vice president for administration and advancement and vice president for finance and management at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Ranum replaces Jack Amundson as a member with expertise in higher education to complete a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority assists higher education institutions in the construction, financing and refinancing of projects by issuing tax-exempt bonds. The authority consists of 10 members, including eight appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, August 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS STINE TO FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Robert Stine to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

Stine, Carlton, is the coordinator of the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center and serves on the council's Northeast Regional Landscape Committee, the Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Board of Directors and the Wilderness Research Foundation Program Committee. Stine replaces Steven Daley Laursen as a member representing higher education and research to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council makes recommendations to the governor, federal, state, county and local governments on forest resources policies and practices, and has the responsibility for implementing the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. The council consists of 17 members.

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For immediate release:
Friday, August 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MPCA BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Jacqueline Duncanson and James Dunlop to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board. Both members are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Duncanson, Mapleton, owns and operates a livestock and crop farm with her husband in Blue Earth County. Duncanson, who has been a member of the board since April 1994, is reappointed as a representative of agriculture.

Dunlop, Shoreview, is a trainer with Clean Water Action Alliance in Minneapolis and had previously been the public information director for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Dunlop has served on the board since July 1999.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Board is charged with meeting the complexity of problems relating to water, air and land resources of the state consistent with the maximum enjoyment and use thereof in furtherance of the welfare of the people of the state. The board consists of nine members, including the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, who serves as chair.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, August 1, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Hennepin County. The opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Delila Pierce on October 1, 2002. The finalists are Jeffrey Hassan, Kathleen Mottl and Mark Wernick.

Hassan, Brooklyn Park, is a solo practitioner in Brooklyn Park. He was an attorney and partner in the Minneapolis law firm of Hassan and Reed from 1985 to 1991 and again from 1998 to 2002, a partner in the law firm of Jordan and Keys in Washington, DC from 1991 to 1998, and a solo practitioner in St. Paul from 1977 to 1985. Hassan earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1973.

Mottl, Loretto, is an assistant Wright County Attorney in Buffalo, a position she has held since 1991. She was an attorney with the Anoka law firm of Dorn and Edwards from 1989 to 1991. Mottl earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1988 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1987.

Wernick, Minneapolis, is a self-employed attorney in Minneapolis, a position he held from 1977 to 1985 and again since 1987. He was an attorney and partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Mauzy and Wernick from 1985 to 1987 and an attorney in the Hennepin County Public Defender's office in Minneapolis from 1975 to 1977. Wernick earned his juris doctorate degree from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa in 1975 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 58 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 26, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS PETERSON TO STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Cathy Peterson to the Minnesota State High School League.

Peterson, Maple Grove, is a recently retired high school teacher from South High School in Minneapolis. Peterson replaces David Doth for a four-year term that expires on July 31, 2006.

The Minnesota State High School League exercises control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletics, and musical, dramatic and other contests between students of Minnesota high schools. The Minnesota State High School League consists of 20 members, including four appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 26, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Melanie Gustafson, Mayor E. Craig Morris and Douglas Thies to the Emergency Response Commission. All three appointees will complete four-year terms that expire on January 3, 2005.

Gustafson, Blaine, is a business representative with SEIU Local 113, Minnesota's Health Care Union, and a former hospital worker. Gustafson replaces Sandra Luedtke as a representative of health professionals.

Morris, Lakeland, is a regulatory strategist with Qwest Communications in Minneapolis and the mayor of Lakeland. Morris replaces Kelly Ferber as a representative of local-elected officials.

Thies, Eden Prairie, is a workers' compensation manager with Fingerhut Companies, Inc. in Minnetonka and a volunteer firefighter with the Eden Prairie Fire Department. Thies replaces Michael Turnbull as a representative of volunteer firefighters.

The Emergency Response Commission coordinates the implementation of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The commission consists of 22 members, including 18 appointed by the governor.

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Friday, July 26, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Gerald Dexter and the reappointment of Donald McHale to the Gambling Control Board.

Dexter, White Bear Lake, is a criminal case investigator with the Minneapolis City Attorney's office and has a background in law enforcement as a case investigator with the Minneapolis Civilian Review Authority, the police chief for the city of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin and a patrolman and investigator for the St. Paul Police Department. Dexter replaces Michelle Seidel for a four-year term that expires on June 30, 2006.

McHale, Nisswa, is a retired businessman and active in numerous community, civic and veterans organizations in Crow Wing County. McHale, who has served on the Gambling Control Board since July 1998, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on June 30, 2006.

The Gambling Control Board issues, suspends and revokes licenses of organizations, bingo halls, distributors and manufacturers of gambling equipment, registers gambling equipment, collects license fees and inspects records, conducts hearings to insure integrity of operations and compliance with all applicable laws and rules. The Gambling Control Board consists of seven members, including five appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 25, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS McCOY TO BOARD OF DENTISTRY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Gerald McCoy to the Board of Dentistry.

McCoy, Eden Prairie, is the director of educational planning with the Cuningham Group in Minneapolis. Previously, he was the superintendent of schools in Eden Prairie, and an assistant superintendent, principal and English teacher in Burnsville. McCoy replaces Julia Huebner as a public member to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Board of Dentistry examines, licenses and registers dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, and enforces the Minnesota Dental Practices Act. The board consists of nine members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 25, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS LATTS TO BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Shirley Latts to the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design.

Latts, Minnetonka, is the owner of Latts Concepts and was a realtor with Edina Realty for 20 years prior to starting her own business three years ago. Latts replaces Kel Heyl, who resigned, as a public member to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design licenses and regulates architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists and certifies interior designers. The board consists of 21 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 25, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS CAVANAUGH AND ELLEFSON TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of James Cavanaugh and Wayne Ellefson to the Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation. Both are appointed to five-year terms that expire on June 30, 2007.

Cavanaugh, Austin, is corporate secretary and senior attorney with Hormel Foods Corporation in Austin. Cavanaugh has served on the council as a representative of business since 1995.

Ellefson, Elk River, is a union benefits representative with the United Auto Workers' Union. Ellefson has served on the council since its inception in 1992 as a representative of labor.

The Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation advises the Department of Labor and Industry and make recommendations to the legislature on the state's workers' compensation laws. The council consists of 12 members, including two appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 19, 2002



GOVERNOR APPOINTS HANNON TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Mary Hannon to a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the second of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Stillwater in Washington County. Thirty-nine people applied for this judicial position.

Hannon is an assistant Hennepin County attorney, a position she has held since 1987. She has been a trial attorney in the Juvenile Prosecution Division since 1998 and is the division's community prosecutor for the city of Brooklyn Park. Before that she was in the Adult Prosecution Division and the Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) Division. She was also a law clerk in the Hennepin County attorney's office from 1986 to 1987. Hannon earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1986 and her bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1982.

"Mary specializes in prosecuting child abuse and sexual assault cases, which are among the most heart-wrenching and emotional cases a lawyer tries," Governor Ventura said. "Mary handles these cases with great care and professionalism. I know she will use this same approach when presiding over cases as a judge."

Hannon's community activities include volunteering for the Stillwater Girls Traveling Basketball Association, the St. Croix

Catholic School and the Spirit of Christian Youth. She was also president of the Family Violence Network Board of Directors and volunteered on weeklong mission trips in Oklahoma and Montana for Habitat for Humanity.

Hannon, 41, was born in St. Paul, grew up in Maplewood, and lives in Stillwater with her husband, Paul, and their three daughters, Allison, 19, Hilary, 15, and Nora, 11.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 19, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Seventh Judicial District court trial bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on January 1, 2003, for the city of Little Falls in Morrison County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Seventh Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this position must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Tuesday, August 13, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, July 9, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CASTRO TO JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Leonardo Castro to the Commission on Judicial Selection.

Castro, White Bear Township, is the Chief Public Defender in the Fourth Judicial District (Hennepin County) Public Defender's office in Minneapolis, a position he has held since 2001. Prior to that, he was the Chief Public Defender in the Fifth Judicial District. During that time, he served as a Fifth Judicial District attorney member on the Commission on Judicial Selection as a Supreme Court appointee. Castro replaces Helen Meyer, who resigned to accept an appointment as an Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The Commission on Judicial Selection solicits judicial candidates, evaluates applicants and recommends three to five finalists to the governor for district court and Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 49 members appointed by the governor and the Supreme Court.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 3, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Fourth Judicial District court trial bench vacancy in Hennepin County. The vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Delila Pierce on October 1, 2002.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Fourth Judicial District may request an application for this vacancy by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Thursday, July 18, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 3, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sara Standke and the reappointment of John Testa to the Higher Education Services Council.

Standke, St. Paul, just completed her second year as an undergraduate student at Hamline University in St. Paul. Standke, who is from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, replaces Aaron Street as a student member for a two-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Testa, Maple Grove, is the regional finance director for Medtronic's midwest and great lakes regions. Testa, who has served on the council since 1998, is appointed to a six-year term that expires on January 7, 2008.

The Higher Education Services Council appoints the Director of the Higher Education Services Office, provides advice and review regarding the performance of the higher education services office in its duties and in any policies, procedures, or rules the office prescribes to perform its duties, and makes recommendations to the governor and the legislature. The council consists of nine members, including one student member.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 3, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Martin Lehman and Dr. Colin Wightman to the Minnesota Technology, Inc. Board of Directors.

Lehman, Plymouth, is the chief executive officer of Entronix International, a 35-year old electronics firm with offices in Minneapolis and Eveleth. Lehman replaces Bonita Baskin to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Wightman, Kasota, is an associate professor and department chair of the Computer and Information Services Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Wightman replaces John Yngve for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Minnesota Technology, Inc. is a public, non-profit corporation established to help small and medium-sized companies apply, develop and commercialize technology. This is accomplished through diversifying the greater Minnesota economy, promoting the technology community in Minnesota and providing leadership in public policy discussions. The Minnesota Technology, Inc. Board of Directors consists of 15 members, including the chair and six members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 3, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO COUNCIL ON ASIAN-PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Stephan Huh and Aly Xiong and the reappointment of Vinodh Kutty, Adeel Lari and Wangyal Ritzekura to the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Huh, Minneapolis, is president and chief executive officer of The Leonard Parker Associates, an architectural firm in Minneapolis. Huh replaces Tama Fox, who resigned, as a representative of Korea to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Kutty, Minneapolis, is the project coordinator for the Hennepin County Office of Multi-Cultural Services. Kutty, who has served on the council as a representative of Singapore since 1998, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Lari, Burnsville, is the director of the Office of Research Services for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He is currently chair of the council. Lari, who has served as a representative of Pakistan since 1994, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Ritzekura, Minneapolis, is a leader in the Twin Cities Tibetan community and helped start a Tibetan Cultural School. Ritzekura, who has served on the council as a representative of Tibet since 1997, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Xiong, St. Paul, is a consultant and active in the Hmong community. Xiong replaces Sai Lee, who resigned, as a representative of Hmong-Americans to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans advises the governor

and legislature on issues faced by Asian-Pacific people in the state, including the unique challenges of immigrants and refugees speaking English as a second language. The council consists of 23 members, including 19 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, July 1, 2002



GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Edward Cleary and Marybeth Dorn to the Second Judicial District trial court bench in Ramsey County. The first opening occurred with the retirement of the Honorable James Campbell on June 30, 2002. The second opening will occur with the resignation of the Honorable Wilhelmina Wright to accept an appointment to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Fifty-eight people applied for these two vacancies.

Cleary is the director of the Minnesota Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility, a position he has held since 1997. He was an attorney in private practice in St. Paul from 1978 to 1997, and an assistant Second Judicial District public defender in Ramsey County from 1980 to 1995. He was a staff attorney in the securities division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce from 1977 to 1978. Cleary earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1977 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1974.

"As director of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, Ed handles the ethics complaints that are filed against lawyers with dignity and respect," Governor Ventura said. "As a judge, Ed will

conduct himself with the highest regard for those who appear in his courtroom."

Cleary is an adjunct professor with the University of Minnesota Law School, is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association Board of Governors, and serves on its Task Force on Multi-Disciplinary Practice, Professional Rules Committee and Professionalism Committee. He is also past president of the Ramsey County Bar Association, and a member of the American Bar Association Center for Professional Responsibility as well as a member of the Minnesota News Council.

Cleary, 49, was born in St. Paul and lives there with his wife, Dana Moorhead.

Dorn is the chief referee in the family court division in the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County. She has been a Hennepin County court referee since 1987. Dorn was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Pepin, Dayton, Herman, Graham and Getts in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1987, an attorney and partner in the law firm of Sutcliffe and Swanson in Minneapolis from 1978 to 1982 and a law clerk in Hennepin County from 1977 to 1978. Dorn earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1976 and her bachelor of arts degree from Bethel College in St. Paul in 1968.

"As a Hennepin County District Court referee for the past 15 years, Marybeth has become a favorite among lawyers who appear before her because she has a reputation for timely and well-written opinions, she runs an orderly courtroom, is respectful of all parties and has great knowledge of the law and procedures," Governor Ventura said. "She has proven herself as a referee to be elevated to a district court judge and will be a great addition to the Ramsey County bench."

Dorn is a board member of the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a trainer for the Hennepin County DASC Volunteer Program and has taught numerous courses on family law and courtroom procedures and processes. She has also been a Hennepin County Family Court Guardian ad Litem, volunteered at Chrysalis and for the Hennepin County Bar Association Family Court Settlement Program.

Dorn, 56, was born in Chicago and lives in Shoreview with her husband, Robert Behrens.



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For immediate release:
Monday, June 10, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Cheryl Dickson, Clarence Hightower, David Paskach, and Ann Curme Shaw to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees (MnSCU). They will serve six-year terms that expire on June 30, 2008. The governor also appointed two student members, Vincent Ijioma and Shaun Williams, for two-year terms that expire June 30, 2004.

"Each of these people has unique talents that will help balance MnSCU," said Governor Ventura.

Dickson, St. Paul, recently completed 24 years as executive director of the Minnesota Humanities Commission and has served on the MnSCU Citizens Advisory Commission. Dickson will replace Nancy Brataas.

Hightower, Plymouth, is the president and chief executive officer of the Minneapolis Urban League. He will replace Dennis Dotson.

Paskach, Cottonwood, is the executive vice-president of administration and general counsel for Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. in Marshall. He serves on the Southwest State University Foundation. Paskach will replace Robert Erickson.

Curme Shaw, Minnetonka, is the vice-president and associate general counsel for Ceridian Corporation. She serves on the Board of Junior Achievement and is an adjunct at William Mitchell College. Shaw will replace Michael Vekich.

Ijioma, Plymouth, is a student at Hennepin Technical College. He is a member of the Minnesota State College Student Association Governing Council, International Students committee, and a voting

member of the National Student Government. Ijioma will replace Joann Splonskowski.

Williams, Cloquet, is a student at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. He is the current vice-president for the Minnesota State College Student Organization. He has served on the MnSCU Citizen Advisory Commission and as president and legislative director of the Fond du Lac Student Senate. Williams will replace Joseph Swanson.

MnSCU oversees the technical colleges, community colleges, and state universities and all related property. The board consists of 15 members with at least one member from each congressional district, three student members representing technical colleges, community colleges, and state universities, and four at-large members.

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For immediate release:
Monday, June 10, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the second of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Stillwater in Washington County. The finalists are Mary Hannon, Richard Ilkka and John McBride.

Hannon, Stillwater, is an assistant Hennepin County attorney, a position she has held since 1987. She has been a trial attorney in the Juvenile Prosecution Division since 1998 and is the division's community prosecutor for the city of Brooklyn Park. Before that she was in the Adult Prosecution Division and the Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) Division. She was also a law clerk in the Hennepin County attorney's office from 1986 to 1987. Hannon earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1986 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1982.

Ilkka, Stillwater, has been a self-employed attorney since 1990. He has also been the city attorney and prosecutor for the city of Oakdale since 1993. Ilkka was an associate attorney in the Magnuson Law Firm in Stillwater from 1989 to 1990 and a Tenth Judicial District law clerk from 1987 to 1989. Ilkka earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota in 1986 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

McBride, Stillwater, is a senior attorney with the law firm of Lommen, Nelson, Cole and Stageberg in Minneapolis. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1991. McBride was a senior shareholder with the law firm of Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon and Vogt

in St. Paul from 1989 to 1991, an attorney and president of the law firm of Donlin, McBride and Goetteman in St. Paul from 1982 to 1989, a staff attorney for The St. Paul Companies in Bloomington from 1980 to 1982 and an associate attorney for the law firm of Geimer and Rice in St. Louis Park from 1978 to 1980. McBride earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1977 and his bachelor of science degree from the University of Missouri in 1975.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 39 applications for this judicial position.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, June 6, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Ramsey County. This opening will occur as a result of the resignation of the Honorable Wilhelmina Wright to accept an appointment to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The application period for this opening will be added to a previously announced Second Judicial District vacancy due to the retirement of the Honorable James Campbell.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Second Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

New candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Candidates do not need to apply for each vacancy separately. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, June 21, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct a meeting at a later date.

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Monday, June 3, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Ramsey County. This opening will occur as a result of the retirement of the Honorable James Campbell on June 30, 2002.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Second Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

New candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, June 21, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct a meeting at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Friday, May 31, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT BENCH

(Minneapolis, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Regina Chu, Mel Dickstein and Steven Pihlaja to the Fourth Judicial District trial court bench in Hennepin County. The openings occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Andrew Danielson and the Honorable J. Bruce Hartigan on April 30, 2002 and the Honorable Franklin Knoll on May 6, 2002.

Chu is an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis. She has been a solo practitioner since 1997. She was a partner in the law firm of Wilson and Chu in Minneapolis from 1993 through 1996, a shareholder in the Minneapolis law firm of Bassford, Lockhart, Truesdell and Briggs from 1985 to 1993, a special assistant attorney general in the Minnesota Attorney General's office from 1981 through 1984 and a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Douglas Amdahl from 1980 to 1981. Chu earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1980 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1975.

"I was immediately impressed with Regina the first time I met her," Governor Ventura said. "She's smart, has a great law background, and has been active in a variety of legal organizations."

Chu is vice chair of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, is president of the Douglas K. Amdahl Inn of Court, was president of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Asian Pacific Bar Association, served on the Hennepin County Judicial Evaluation Committee and the Fourth Judicial District Ethics Committee. She is also a volunteer attorney for the Children's Law Center's Truancy Intervention Project, volunteers for the Fishes and Loaves Feeding the Poor Program and was a volunteer attorney for Glenwood/Lyndale Legal Advice Clinic.

Chu, 48, was born in Detroit, Michigan, and lives in Minneapolis

Dickstein is of counsel with the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller

and Ciresi in Minneapolis. He was a partner with the firm from 1982 to 2001 and an associate attorney from 1978 to 1982. Dickstein was an assistant United States attorney in Minneapolis from 1974 to 1978. Dickstein earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

"The judges on the Fourth District bench have come up with some creative ways to approach the problems society faces," Governor Ventura said. "Mel also has a very creative approach. He will add to the creativity of this court and help look for new ways to better serve the citizens of Hennepin County."

Dickstein is a Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem, serves on the Boards of Directors of the Greater Minneapolis Children's Crisis Nursery and the Northern Clay Center. He has also served on the Adath Jeshuran Synagogue Hesed Committee and Scholarship Committee and was vice chair of Project Elan, a women's alternative to prison and the Lowry Hill Residents' Association.

Dickstein, 53, was born in New York and lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Linda Foreman and their son, Thomas, 4.

Pihlaja has been a solo practitioner in Minneapolis from 1979 to 1982 and again from 1997 to the present. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm Pihlaja and Stromme in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1997. Pihlaja earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1979 and his bachelor of science degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1975.

"Some people describe Steve as a blue collar lawyer," Governor Ventura said. "In my opinion, that's a positive. Steve tries a lot of cases and doesn't have other lawyers or a big staff to help him out. He also makes time to take an active role in his community in Northeast Minneapolis."

Pihlaja serves on the Minneapolis Charter Commission, is a committee member of the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, volunteers for the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, the City Tree Project, chairs the environment committee of Windom Park Citizens in Action and is general counsel and a school committee member of McDonough Organization for Respect for Everyone School and general counsel and an executive committee member of the Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. He also chaired the Northstar Rail Community Task Force, was president of the Northeast Economic Development Council, co-chaired the Northeast Minneapolis Retail Task Force and received the *president's award*

from the Northeast Business Association.

Pihlaja, 50, was born in Wadena and lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Lorrie Stromme.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 23, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced five finalists for three Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancies in Hennepin County. The commission received 82 applications for these three judicial vacancies. The openings occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Andrew Danielson and the Honorable J. Bruce Hartigan on April 30, 2002 and the Honorable Franklin Knoll on May 6, 2002. The finalists are Regina Chu, Mel Dickstein, Steven Pihlaja, Thomas Sipkins and Mark Wernick.

Chu, Minneapolis, is an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis. She has been a solo practitioner since 1997. She was a partner in the law firm of Wilson and Chu in Minneapolis from 1993 through 1996, a shareholder in the Minneapolis law firm of Bassford, Lockhart, Truesdell and Briggs from 1985 to 1993, a special assistant attorney general in the Minnesota Attorney General's office from 1981 through 1984 and a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Douglas Amdahl from 1980 to 1981. Chu earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1980 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1975.

Dickstein, Minneapolis, is of counsel with the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in Minneapolis. He was a partner with the firm from 1982 to 2001 and an associate attorney from 1978 to 1982. Dickstein was an assistant United States attorney in Minneapolis from 1974 to 1978. Dickstein earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

Pihlaja, Minneapolis, has been a solo practitioner in Minneapolis from 1979 to 1982 and again from 1997 to the present. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm Pihlaja and Stromme in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1997. Pihlaja earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1979 and his bachelor of science degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1975.

Sipkins, Edina, is a founder and the original managing partner of the Minneapolis law firm of Halleland, Lewis, Nilan, Sipkins and Johnson. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1996. He was a shareholder with the Minneapolis law firm of Popham, Haik, Schobrich, Kaufman and Doty from 1986 to 1996, an attorney and partner in the St. Paul law firm of Peterson, Popovich, Knutson and Flynn from 1977 to 1986, a staff attorney for the city of St. Paul from 1975 to 1977 and a staff attorney for the United States Renegotiation Board in Washington D.C. from 1973 to 1975. Sipkins earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1969.

Wernick, Minneapolis, is a self-employed attorney in Minneapolis, a position he held from 1977 to 1985 and again since 1987. He was an attorney and partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Mauzy and Wernick from 1985 to 1987 and an attorney in the Hennepin County Public Defender's office in Minneapolis from 1975 to 1977. Wernick earned his juris doctorate degree from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa in 1975 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 30, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT FINALISTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the ad hoc committee that reviewed resumes and conducted interviews for two Associate Justice positions on the Minnesota Supreme Court. The vacancies will occur with the resignations of the Honorable Joan Ericksen Lancaster on June 14, 2002 and the Honorable Edward Stringer on August 31, 2002. The governor's office received 74 resumes for these two positions. The finalists are Judge G. Barry Anderson, Annamarie Daley, Judge Sam Hanson, Judge Harriet Lansing and Helen Meyer.

Anderson, Apple Valley, has been an at-large judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals since August 1998. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm Arnold, Anderson and Dove, and its predecessor, Arnold and McDowell, in Hutchinson from 1983 to 1998, where he had a general civil law practice with an emphasis in personal injury litigation, both plaintiff and defense. He was also the Hutchinson city attorney and assistant Princeton city attorney. Anderson was an associate attorney with the law firm of Erickson, Zierke, Kuderer, Myster and Madsen in Fairmont from 1979 to 1983 and a law clerk for the LeVander Zimper law firm in Minneapolis from 1977 to 1978. Anderson earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter in 1976.

Daley, Hamel, is an attorney and partner with the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in Minneapolis. She has been a partner with the firm since 1991, an associate attorney from 1984 through 1990 and was a summer associate in 1983. Her law practice is in litigation on behalf of businesses and individuals in the area of intellectual property, antitrust, regulatory, domestic and international distributors and dealer issues, other product marketing issues and shareholder disputes. Daley was a summer law clerk for

the Office of General Counsel with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. in 1983 and worked in the Department of Public Affairs for Cargill in Minnetonka in 1982. Daley earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude and her Bachelor of Agriculture Business Administration with highest honors from the University of Minnesota in 1980.

Hanson, Minneapolis, has been an at-large judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals since November 2000. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Briggs and Morgan in Minneapolis from 1966 to 2000, where he specialized in civil litigation and regulated industries. He served as the firm's president from 1988 to 1993. Hanson was a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Robert Sheran from 1965 to 1966 and a law clerk for Hennepin County District Court Judge Douglas Amdahl from 1964 to 1965. Hanson earned his law degree with honors from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1965 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1961.

Lansing, St. Paul, has been a judge from the Fourth Congressional District on the Minnesota Court of Appeals since November 1983. She was a Ramsey County Municipal Court judge from 1978 to 1983, the St. Paul city attorney from 1976 to 1978, an administrative hearing officer with the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings in 1976, an attorney and partner in the law firm of Lansing, Oakes and Caperton from 1974 to 1976, a prosecutor for the city of St. Paul from 1972 to 1973, and a staff counsel for the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority from 1970 to 1972. Lansing earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1970 and her bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1967.

Meyer, Edina, has been the owner of Meyer and Associates in St. Louis Park since 1996, where she has a civil trial practice which includes mediation and arbitration work. She is also certified as a civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and the Minnesota State Bar Association. Meyer was a founding partner of the Pritzker and Meyer law firm in Minneapolis in 1987, where she practiced until 1996 and was an associate attorney with the law firm of Schwebel, Goetz, Sieben and Hanson in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1987. Meyer earned her juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1982 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1976.

Members of the ad hoc committee were George Soule, chair, attorney with Bowman and Brooke, Minneapolis; Leonardo Castro, Fourth Judicial Chief Public Defender, Minneapolis; Alan Eidsness, attorney with Henson and Efron, Minneapolis; Honorable A. M. "Sandy" Keith, retired Supreme Court Chief Justice, and attorney with Dunlap and Seeger, Rochester; Richard Pemberton, attorney with Pemberton, Sorlie, Rufer and Kershner, Fergus Falls; Tim Penny, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Waseca; Barbara Runchey, attorney with Runchey, Louwagie and Wellman, Marshall; and Janice Symchych, attorney with Dorsey and Whitney, Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Supreme Court hears appeals from the Court of Appeals, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, and Tax Court, reviews all first-degree murder convictions and legislative election disputes. The Supreme Court consists of seven justices, one chief justice and six associate justices. Terms are six years.

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For immediate release:
Monday, May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of David Higgs and William Leary to the Second Judicial District trial court bench in Ramsey County. The first opening occurred as a result of the Supreme Court's conversion of a vacant Second Judicial District court referee position to a district court judgeship. The second opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable George Petersen on June 7, 2002. Sixty-two people applied for these two vacancies.

Higgs is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm of McCollum, Crowley, Vehanen, Moschet and Miller in Bloomington, a position he has held since 1996. He was a senior attorney with American Family Insurance Company in Arden Hills from 1987 to 1996, an attorney and managing partner in the law firm of Ostgard, Higgs and Warner in St. Paul from 1986 to 1987 and an attorney with Engebretson and Associates in St. Paul from 1981 to 1985. Higgs earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1978.

"David has an enthusiasm for the law," Governor Ventura said. "I know he will use this enthusiasm as a judge. People who appear before David will know that he will hear their case with interest and concern."

Higgs is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and has served on its Board of Governors and Civil Litigation Section Governing Council, is a member of the Ramsey County Bar Association and has served on its Membership and Judiciary Committees, is a member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and was a member of the Minnesota Minority Lawyers Association. Higgs is also a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Board of Law Examiners, the Board of Directors of Southern

Minnesota Regional Legal Services, the National Conference of Bar Examiners and was a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Racial Bias Task Force.

Higgs, 46, was born in Washington, D.C. and resides in St. Paul with his wife, Kathleen Vanderwall. He has two stepdaughters, Jennifer and Jillian and three grandchildren, Cameron, Sydney and Hope.

Leary is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Geraghty, O'Loughlin and Kenney in St. Paul, a position he has held since 1980. He was a law clerk for U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge John J. Connelly in St. Paul in 1980 and a law clerk for Second Judicial District Judge Sidney Abramson in St. Paul from 1976 to 1979. Leary earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1971.

"As a law clerk for Ramsey County Judge Sidney Abramson, Bill did a lot of research and writing. Other Ramsey County judges have said that Judge Abramson relied heavily on Bill's analytical and writing abilities," Governor Ventura said. "Bill will be able to put those skills to good use on the Ramsey County bench. I know his opinions will be well thought out and well written."

Leary is a member of the Minnesota and Wisconsin State Bar Associations, the Ramsey County Bar Association, American Bar Association, Defense Research Institute and the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association. He has been the chair of the Board of Conciliation of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and has been a youth athletics coach, active in his church and has worked in a variety of areas with underserved and disadvantaged people.

Leary, 53, was born in Chicago and resides in St. Paul with his wife, Barbara Washburn. They have two children, Tim, 19 and Amy, 14.

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For immediate release:
Monday, May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Kurt Johnson to a Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Mankato in Blue Earth County. The opening occurred with the retirement of the Honorable James Mason on May 4, 2002. Twenty-two people applied for this vacancy.

Johnson is an attorney and partner in the New Ulm office of the law firm Gislason and Hunter, a position he has held since 1987. He was an associate attorney in the firm's predecessor, Gislason, Dosland, Hunter and Malecki from 1983 to 1987. Johnson earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1983 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1979.

"Kurt comes across as a gentle and kind man," Governor Ventura said. "These are qualities that will make the people who appear before him feel more at ease in what is often an intimidating moment in their lives. I know that as a judge, Kurt will be firm, but also respectful."

Johnson is a volunteer attorney for Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, has served as a judge and evaluator at William Mitchell College of Law for the Trial Advocacy and Advance Trial Advocacy classes. He is a qualified alternative dispute resolution neutral in mediation and arbitration and is certified as a civil trial specialist by the Minnesota State Bar Association's Civil Litigation Section. Johnson's community activities include coaching youth soccer and basketball, Boy Scouts, United Way of New Ulm, Lions Club of New Ulm and serving on the New Ulm Area School District's Long-Range Planning Task Force.

Johnson, 44, was born in New Ulm, grew up in Springfield, and resides in New Ulm with his wife, Anne-Lise. They have one son,

Peder, 6.



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For immediate release:
Monday, May 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HALSEY TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Stephen Halsey to a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Kenneth Maas on April 30, 2002. The Supreme Court transferred the chambers of this judgeship to the city of Buffalo in Wright County.

Halsey is an attorney in the law firm of Moore, Halsey and Eskola in Fridley, a position he has held since 1984. He was an attorney with the law firm of Peterson and Kalina in Columbia Heights from 1979 to 1984 and Babcock, Locher, Neilson and Mannella in Anoka from 1978 to 1979. Halsey earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1978 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Cloud State University in 1973.

"Steve is a well-balanced person," Governor Ventura said. "He has tried a wide range of cases, has been active in legal associations and in the community. I know this background will help him to be a good judge."

Halsey is past president of the Anoka County Bar Association, served on the Minnesota Supreme Court Legal Services Advisory Committee and is currently serving on a joint committee of the Anoka Rotary Club, Judicare and the Anoka County Bar Association to provide budgeting and legal advice to immigrants in Anoka County. Halsey was mayor of Anoka from 1987 to 1990 and a member of the Anoka city council from 1979 to 1987. He was president of the Anoka Rotary Club, president of the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka and chairperson of Ballet Arts Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Halsey, 50, was born in St. Paul and resides in Anoka with his wife, Patricia. They have two daughters, Brooke, 24, and Rachel, 21.



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For immediate release:
Monday, May 13, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR MET COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee for the current vacancy on the Metropolitan Council in District 15. The vacancy occurred with the death of Carolyn Rodriguez. Council District 15 includes the Dakota County cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Lilydale, Mendota, and Mendota Heights. The finalists are Thomas Egan and Eugene Franchett.

Egan, Eagan, has been an attorney in the Apple Valley law firm of Egan, Stewart and Lauer and its predecessor since 1985, was a solo practitioner in Burnsville from 1983 to 1985 and was an attorney in the Minneapolis law firm of Freeman, Gill, Anderson, Egan and Keating from 1975 to 1983. Egan was the mayor of Eagan from 1990 to 1998 and a member of the Eagan City Council from 1978 through 1989. He has served on numerous committees including the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, of which he was president from 1996 to 1997, and the Municipal Legislative Commission, of which he was president from 1995 to 1996.

Franchett, Apple Valley, has been a Dakota County senior transportation planner since 1998, was a senior consultant for BRW, Inc. Engineers and Planners from 1994 to 1998, the principal and owner of Gene Franchett and Associates, a consulting firm for regional and municipal governments, from 1983 to 1993, executive director of the Metropolitan Council from 1979 to 1983, director of physical planning for the Metropolitan Council from 1974 to 1979, executive director of the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities from 1972 to 1974, executive director of the Governor's Task Force on Metropolitan Problems in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1970 to 1972 and executive director of the Fox Valley Council of Governments and Regional Planning Commission in Appleton, Wisconsin from 1963 to 1970.

The Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee consists of seven metropolitan citizens, three of whom must be local elected officials, appointed by the governor to nominate persons for the Metropolitan Council. Committee members who addressed this vacancy were: Mayor Grace Arbogast, Brooklyn Park; Larry Dowell, president of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce; Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley City Council member; Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville; Commissioner Paul Krause, Dakota County; Lisa McDonald, former Minneapolis City Council member; and Mayor E. Craig Morris, Lakeland. The nominating committee interviewed eight applicants for this position at a public hearing on May 7 in Burnsville.

The Metropolitan Council coordinates planning and development in the seven county metropolitan area and directly operates several regional services. The Metropolitan Council consists of 16 metropolitan citizens appointed from geographically defined districts in the seven county metropolitan area and a chair. All 17 members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms that are co-terminus with the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 9, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced five finalists for two Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancies in Ramsey County. The first opening occurred as a result of the Supreme Court's conversion of a vacant Second Judicial District court referee position to a district court judgeship. The second opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable George Petersen on June 7, 2002. The finalists are Diane Alshouse, Marybeth Dorn, David Higgs, William Leary and Al Zdrazil.

Alshouse, Roseville, is a managing attorney in the Second Judicial District Public Defender's office in Ramsey County. She has been an assistant Ramsey County public defender since 1985, except from 1997 to 1998, when she was an assistant attorney in the Hennepin County attorney's office in Minneapolis as part of an exchange program between Ramsey and Hennepin Counties. Alshouse earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa in 1970.

Dorn, Shoreview, is the chief referee in the family court division in the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County. She has been a Hennepin County court referee since 1987. Dorn was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Pepin, Dayton, Herman, Graham and Getts in Minneapolis from 1982 to 1987, an attorney and partner in the law firm of Sutcliffe and Swanson in Minneapolis from 1978 to 1982 and a law clerk in Hennepin County from 1977 to 1978. Dorn earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1976 and her bachelor of arts degree from Bethel College in St. Paul in 1968.

Higgs, St. Paul, is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm of

McCollum, Crowley, Vehanen, Moschet and Miller in Bloomington, a position he has held since 1996. He was a senior attorney with American Family Insurance Company in Arden Hills from 1987 to 1996, an attorney and managing partner in the law firm of Ostgard, Higgs and Warner in St. Paul from 1986 to 1987 and an attorney with Engebretson and Associates in St. Paul from 1981 to 1985. Higgs earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1978.

Leary, St. Paul, is an attorney and shareholder in the law firm of Geraghty, O'Loughlin and Kenney in St. Paul, a position he has held since 1980. He was a law clerk for U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge John J. Connelly in St. Paul from 1978 to 1980 and a law clerk for Second Judicial District Judge Sidney Abramson in St. Paul from 1976 to 1979. Leary earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1971.

Zdrazil, St. Paul, is an assistant Ramsey County attorney in St. Paul, a position he has held since 1987. He was the Bemidji City attorney from 1981 to 1987, an assistant Cass County attorney in Walker from 1979 to 1981, a partner in the law firm of Zdrazil and Mortenson in Bemidji from 1978 to 1979, an assistant Beltrami County attorney in Bemidji from 1975 through 1978, and an associate attorney in the law firm of Cann, Schmidt and Weddel in Bemidji from 1975 to 1978. Zdrazil earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1975 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 62 applications for these two judicial vacancies.

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For immediate release:
Monday, May 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO ZOO BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Kenneth Cutler, Erin Doan and Harry Mares and the reappointment of Charlene Jundt and Todd Watchmaker to the Minnesota Zoological Board.

Cutler, Edina, is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Dorsey and Whitney in Minneapolis. Cutler replaces Christine Roberts for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Doan, Columbia Heights, is an education services administrator with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) in St. Paul. Doan replaces Judi Deming to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Jundt, Wayzata, has served on the board since February 1997, is currently its vice-chair and will become board chair in June. Jundt is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Mares, White Bear Lake, is retiring this year after serving four terms as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Prior to that, he was a high school teacher. Mares replaces Scott Meyers to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Watchmaker, Edina, is a partner in the tax practice with KPMG in Minneapolis. Watchmaker, who has been a member of the board since January 1998, is appointed to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota Zoological Board operates and maintains the Minnesota Zoological Garden. The board consists of 30 members, including 15 appointed by the governor and 15 appointed by the Zoo Board.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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For immediate release:
Monday, May 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO EMS REGULATORY BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sheriff Dean Albers, Roger Boatman, Brian LaCroix and Betsy Wergin and the reappointment of Linda Way to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulatory Board. All will serve four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Albers, Red Wing, has been the sheriff of Goodhue County since 1998 and in law enforcement for 27 years. He has also served on the Southeastern Minnesota Medical Services Communication Committee. Albers replaces Sheriff Steve Haavisto as a representative of sheriffs.

Boatman, Jacobson, serves on the Aitkin County Board of Adjustments, the Aitkin County Parks Commission, the Mississippi Headwaters Advisory Committee and was a member of the Minnesota Board on Aging for eight years. Boatman replaces Richard Stafford as a public member.

LaCroix, Apple Valley, is the executive director of Allina Medical Transportation Services and has served in a variety of capacities in the EMS field for 19 years. He currently chairs the Minnesota Ambulance Association Legislative Committee and is a member of the Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services Council. LaCroix replaces Gary Wingrove as a representative of ambulance service directors.

Way, Duluth, is the director of emergency services at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth and has 25 years of experience in emergency medical services. Way, who has been a member of the board since March 2001, is appointed to a full four-year term as a representative of registered nurses.

Wergin, Princeton, is a Sherburne County Commissioner and a

member of the Central Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Region. Wergin replaces Robert Anderson as a representative of regional EMS programs.

The Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board makes recommendations on improving access, delivery and effectiveness of the state's EMS delivery system and establishes procedures for investigating, hearing and resolving complaints against EMS providers. The board consists of 19 members, including 15 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 2, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT APPLICATION PROCESS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the process that he will use to fill the upcoming vacancies on the Minnesota Supreme Court of Justice Edward Stringer and Justice Joan Ericksen Lancaster.

Licensed Minnesota attorneys who wish to apply for appointment should submit a letter of interest, risumi and six to ten references to:

John Hultquist, Judicial Appointments Coordinator
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates who wish to be considered must submit their materials to be received by the governor's office no later than **4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2002**.

Governor Ventura has designated an eight-member ad hoc screening committee to review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to Governor Ventura. The committee members are:

George Soule, Chair, attorney with Bowman and Brooke, Minneapolis,

Leonardo Castro, Fourth Judicial Chief Public Defender, Minneapolis,

Alan Eidsness, attorney with Henson and Efron, Minneapolis,

Honorable A. M. "Sandy" Keith, retired Supreme Court Chief Justice, and attorney with Dunlap and Seeger, Rochester,

Richard Pemberton, attorney with Pemberton, Sorlie, Rufer and Kershner, Fergus Falls,

Tim Penny, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Waseca,

Barbara Runchey, attorney with Runchey, Louwagie and Wellman, Marshall,

Janice Symchych, attorney with Dorsey and Whitney, Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Supreme Court hears appeals from the Court of Appeals, the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court; reviews first-degree murder convictions, and legislative election disputes. The Supreme Court consists of seven justices, including one chief justice and six associate justices.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, May 2, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS HUDSON TO COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Natalie Hudson to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Eighty-three people applied for this at-large position.

Hudson is an assistant attorney general in the criminal appeals division of the Minnesota Attorney General's office, a position she has held since 1997. From 1994 to 1997, she was in the health licensing division of the Attorney General's office. Hudson was the St. Paul City Attorney from 1992 to 1994, assistant dean of student affairs at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul from 1989 to 1992, an associate attorney in employment law and general civil litigation at the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in Minneapolis from 1986 to 1988, and a staff attorney with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. in St. Paul from 1982 to 1986. Hudson earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1982 and her bachelor of arts degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona in 1979.

"Natalie's practice of law has taken her from representing the poor, then corporate clients, then directing academic programs at Hamline law school, then the chief legal officer for the city of St. Paul to now handling criminal appeals for the state of Minnesota in the attorney general's office. Her 20-year law career can be summed up in one word - variety," Governor Ventura said. "She also has the ability to relate to people one-on-one in the community, which will help make this court more understandable to the average citizen."

Hudson has served on the Implementation Committee on Multicultural Diversity and Racial Fairness in the Courts as well as the Minnesota Supreme Court Racial Bias Task Force. She is active in St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, where her husband is the pastor, as a youth ministry team leader and Bible study teacher, was

a commissioner for the St. Paul Public Housing Agency, served as a Metropolitan State University Foundation Trustee and as a reading buddy at the Benjamin E. Mays Magnet School for Communication Arts and Leadership.

Hudson, 45, was born in Jefferson City, Missouri and resides in Roseville with her husband Reverend Willie Hudson. They have a son, Kobie, 28. Hudson replaces the Honorable Roland Amundson, who resigned on February 24, 2002.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of trial courts other than conciliation courts except for appeals in certain election contests, convictions of murder in the first degree and appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges: eight at-large seats and eight seats designated for each of the state's congressional districts.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 30, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Tenth Judicial District court trial bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the second of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Stillwater in Washington County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Tenth Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Tuesday, May 21, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 24, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Kenneth Maas on April 30, 2002. The Supreme Court transferred the chambers of this judgeship to the city of Buffalo in Wright County. The finalists are Tammi Fredrickson, Stephen Halsey and Timothy Young.

Fredrickson, Coon Rapids, is an assistant Coon Rapids city attorney, a position she has held since 1995. She was an associate attorney with the law firm of Morrison and Fenske in Edina from 1992 to 1995. Fredrickson earned her juris doctorate degree magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1992 and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1987.

Halsey, Anoka, is an attorney in the law firm of Moore, Halsey and Eskola in Fridley, a position he has held since 1984. He was an attorney with the law firm of Peterson and Kalina in Columbia Heights from 1979 to 1984 and Babcock, Locher, Neilson and Mannella in Anoka from 1978 to 1979. Halsey earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1978 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Cloud State University in 1973.

Young, Annandale, is the managing partner with the law firm of Shadduck, Young and Brown in Annandale. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1978. Young has also been the Wright County deputy examiner of titles since 1986. Young earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1978 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts in 1975.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates

and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 24 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Richard Diedrichsen, Anne Geoghegan, Michele Kyler and Thant Pearson and the reappointment of Mark Netzinger, Rachel Parker and Anne Robertson to the State Rehabilitation Council.

Diedrichsen, St. Cloud, has worked as a rehabilitation counselor for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. Diedrichsen is appointed to a new position on the council as an advocate for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Geoghegan, Roseville, works in marketing and liaison activities for outpatient services for the Sister Kenny Institute in Minneapolis. Geoghegan replaces Lisa Shepherd as a representative of business to complete a three-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Kyler, Crookston, has used rehabilitation services since 1984. Kyler replaces Gwyn Leder as a consumer member to complete a three-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Pearson, Blaine, is a rehabilitation counselor for the Minnesota Department of Economic Security Rehabilitation Services branch in Anoka County. Pearson replaces Richard Wagner to complete a three-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Netzinger, Cambridge, is a physical therapist in private practice in Cambridge and serves as a business representative on the council. Netzinger, who has been a member of the council since April 1997, is appointed to another three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Parker, Minneapolis, is the co-coordinator of Project PRIDE, a rehabilitation information and disability education program of the

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) of Minnesota. Parker, who has served on the council since July 1998, represents PACER. She is appointed to another three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Robertson, Minneapolis, is a staff attorney with the Minnesota Disability Law Center. Robertson, who has served on the council since November 1997, represents the Client Assistance Project. She is appointed to another three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The State Rehabilitation Council advises state government on the performance of Minnesota's vocational rehabilitation programs, a component of the state's workforce center system. The council consists of 18 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, April 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SIX TO STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Connie Lee Berg, RoseAnn Faber and Sharon Johnson and the appointment of Mark Eggen, David Hancox and Reverend Clarence Jones to the Statewide Independent Living Council. They will serve three-year terms that expire on January 3, 2005.

Berg, Red Lake, is the Section 121 director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Berg, who has served on the council since July 1999, represents organizations and advocates.

Faber, St. Paul, has over 25 years of work experience in the human services field. Faber, who has been a member of the council since July 1999 and has served on its finance and executive committees, represents organizations.

Johnson, Duluth, is a career rehabilitation counselor with the Minnesota Department of Economic Security Rehabilitation Services in Duluth. Johnson, who has been a member of the council since July 1999, represents organizations and advocates.

Eggen, Minneapolis, was hospitalized and has transitioned to independent living. Eggen replaces Rand Stenhjem as an advocate.

Hancox, St. Paul, is the executive director of the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living in St. Paul. Hancox replaces Cara Ruff as a representative of Centers for Independent Living directors.

Jones, Minneapolis, is president of the Active Faith Ministerial Alliance in Minneapolis. Jones replaces Rick Cardenas as an advocate.

The Statewide Independent Living Council monitors, reviews and evaluates the implementation of the state plan for independent living and jointly develops and submits, in conjunction with designated state agencies, the state plan required in section 704 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The council consists of 21 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, April 19, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS FINALISTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that the has accepted the recommendations of the ad hoc committee that reviewed risumis and conducted interviews for the Honorable Roland Amundson's at-large position as a judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Named as finalists are Wilbur Fluegel, Natalie Hudson, the Honorable James Swenson and the Honorable Wilhelmina Wright.

Fluegel, Maple Grove, is the owner of the Fluegel Law Office in Minneapolis. Prior to becoming a solo practitioner, he was an attorney and the managing partner of the law firm of Wentzel and Fluegel in Minneapolis from 1994 to 1999, an attorney with the law firm of Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum, McCoy and Carey in Minneapolis, where he was the head of the appellate and motion practice department from 1990 to 1994, and a trial attorney with the firm from 1980 to 1990. Fluegel was a Third Judicial District law clerk in Rochester from 1979 to 1980. Fluegel, 46, earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1979 and his bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from Mankato State University in 1976.

Hudson, Roseville, is an assistant attorney general in the criminal appeals division of the Minnesota Attorney General's office, a position she has held since 1997. From 1994 to 1997, she was in the health licensing division of the Attorney General's office. Hudson was the St. Paul City Attorney from 1992 to 1994, assistant dean of student affairs at Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul from 1989 to 1992, an associate attorney in employment law and general civil litigation at the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in Minneapolis from 1986 to 1988, and a staff attorney with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc. in St. Paul from 1982 to 1986. Hudson, 45, earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law

School in 1982 and her bachelor of arts degree from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona in 1979.

Swenson, Edina, has been a Fourth Judicial District trial court judge in Hennepin County since 1995 and has been a judge in the family court division since 1997. He was an attorney and partner in the law firm of Mackall, Crounse and Moore in Minneapolis from 1976 to 1995, and served as chair of the firm's commercial litigation department. Swenson, 52, earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

Wright, St. Paul, has been a Second Judicial District trial court judge in Ramsey County since 2000. She was an assistant United States attorney in Minneapolis from 1995 to 2000, where she prosecuted federal criminal cases in the economic crime section and was a member of the major crimes section prior to joining the economic crime section. She was an associate attorney with the law firm of Hogan and Hartson in Washington, D.C. and Houston, Texas from 1991 to 1995 and a law clerk for United States Court of Appeals Judge Damon Keith in Detroit, Michigan from 1989 to 1991. Wright, 38, earned her juris doctorate degree from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1989 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Yale College in New Haven, Connecticut in 1986.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of trial courts other than conciliation courts except for appeals in certain election contests, convictions of murder in the first degree, and appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges; eight at-large seats and eight seats designated for each of the state's congressional districts. The governor's office received 83 risumis for this position.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, April 11, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancies in Hennepin County.

The vacancies will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Andrew Danielson and the Honorable J. Bruce Hartigan on April 30, 2002 and the Honorable Franklin Knoll on May 6, 2002.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Fourth Judicial District may request an application for these vacancies by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for these vacancies must submit an application. Candidates do not need to apply for each vacancy separately. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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Thursday, April 11, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced four finalists for a Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Mason on May 4, 2002. The Supreme Court continued the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Mankato in Blue Earth County. The finalists are Kurt Johnson, Michael Kennedy, Stephen Rolfsrud and Kenneth White.

Johnson, New Ulm, is an attorney and partner in the New Ulm office of the law firm Gislason and Hunter, a position he has held since 1987. He was an associate attorney in the firm's predecessor, Gislason, Dosland, Hunter and Malecki from 1983 to 1987. Johnson earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1983 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1979.

Kennedy, Mankato, has been a partner in the law firm Kennedy and Kennedy since 1995. He was a solo practitioner from 1975 to 1979 and again from 1983 to 1995, a partner in the law firm Dailey and Kennedy from 1979 to 1983 and Adamson and Kennedy from 1973 to 1975, all in Mankato. Kennedy earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree with honors from the University of Minnesota, Morris in 1970.

Rolfsrud, Mankato, has been a child support magistrate in Mankato since 1999, was a child support administrative law judge in Mankato from 1996 to 1999 and an attorney and partner in the Mankato law firm Blethen, Gage and Krause from 1976 to 1996. Rolfsrud earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972.

White, Mankato, is the managing partner of the Farrish Johnson Law

Office in Mankato. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1983. White was also an instructor at the Maynard Pirsig Moot Court at the University of Minnesota Law School from 1998 to 1999 and was a law clerk for Third District Judge James Mork in Albert Lea from 1982 to 1983. White earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1982 and his bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Carleton College in Northfield in 1979.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 22 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 9, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO TO MERIT SYSTEM COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Ann Eilbracht and Jimmiee Gaulden to the Merit System Council. Both will serve three-year terms that expire on January 3, 2005.

Eilbracht, Minneapolis, is the director of human resources for the city of Minneapolis and has over 18 years of human resources experience with the city, University of Minnesota, Ramsey County and Robbinsdale School Ditsrict #281. Eilbracht has served on the council since May 1993.

Gaulden, St. Paul, is in human resources at 3M and has nearly 25 years in sales and human resources with the company. Gaulden has served on the council since May 1993.

The Merit System Council hears personnel appeals, sets policy for administration of examinations, reviews classification and compensation plans and proposed rule changes. The council consists of three members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, April 9, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS FIVE TO REHABILITATION ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Connie Lee Berg, RoseAnn Faber, Walter Hinz, Eric Kloos and Eric Smith to the Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind. They will serve three-year terms that expire on January 3, 2005.

Berg, Red Lake, is the Section 121 Director for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Berg, who has served on the council since July 1999, is a representative of directors of American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation projects.

Faber, St. Paul, serves as a representative of the Statewide Independent Living Council to the Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind. Faber has served on the council since September 1999.

Hinz, Edina, is the owner and president of Document Methods, Inc. and is a peer counselor with Vision Loss Resources. Hinz, who has been a member of the council since July 1997, serves as a current or former recipient of vocational rehabilitation services.

Kloos, St. Paul, supervises programs in the Low Incidence Disabilities Unit of the Division of Special Education at the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. Kloos, who has served on the council since March 2000, is the state special education agency representative.

Smith, Crystal, is a media relations specialist for the Internal Revenue Service in St. Paul and serves on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind. Smith, who has been a member of the council since July 1999 and is currently its vice chair, serves as a current or former recipient of vocational rehabilitation services.

The Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind advises the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security about programs of State Services for the Blind. The council consists of 15 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, April 3, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO COMMISSION SERVING DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Adrienne Haugen, Nancy Ann Johnston and Kim Wassenaar to the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People.

Haugen, Olivia, is a member of the Minnesota DeafBlind Association and the American Association of DeafBlind and is active in the Olivia community. Haugen replaces Sharaine Rawlinson to complete a three-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Johnston, Mankato, is a social worker and a parent of a child with a hearing impairment. Johnston replaces Kirk Anderson to complete a three-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Wassenaar, Coon Rapids, has experience working with the deaf and hard of hearing community, both in professional and volunteer capacities. She was interim assistant director of the DeafBlind Services of Minnesota children's program and has been involved with the St. Paul Black Deaf Advocates. Wassenaar replaces Katherine Sandberg to complete a three-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People advocates on behalf of deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing Minnesotans to ensure equal access to services, programs and opportunities. The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PERA BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Walter Gray and Terry Martinson to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Board of Trustees. Both are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Gray, Crystal, is a self-employed financial advisor. He is a past president of the PERA Board of Trustees and currently chairs its Disability Task Force. Gray has served as a public member with knowledge in pension matters on the board since April 1993.

Martinson, Mountain Iron, is a member of the Independent School District #712 School Board. He is also on the Northeast Service Cooperative Board of Directors and the Minnesota School Boards Association District 11 Board of Directors. Martinson has served as a representative of school boards on the PERA Board of Trustees since February 2001.

The Public Employees Retirement Association Board of Trustees manages the fund that provides retirement, survivor and disability benefits for public employees of county and local government. The board consists of 11 members, including five appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Jack Amundson and Christopher Nelson to the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority. Both are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Amundson, Cold Spring, is a certified public accountant and principal with Larson, Allen, Weishair and Company in St. Cloud. He has served as a member of the Minnesota Vocational-Technical Colleges Advisory Board, the College of St. Benedict Board of Trustees, St. Cloud State University Foundation and as an advisor to the St. John's University HMML Board of Trustees. Amundson has served as a member with expertise in higher education and as a municipal bond expert on the Higher Education Facilities Authority since 1986.

Nelson, St. Louis Park, is an attorney with Northland Insurance Companies in St. Paul and serves on the St. Louis Park City Council. Nelson, who is currently chair of the Higher Education Facilities Authority, has served on the authority since June 1994.

The Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority assists higher education institutions in the construction, financing and refinancing of projects by issuing tax-exempt bonds. The authority consists of 10 members, including eight appointed by the governor.

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Monday, April 1, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Ramsey County. This opening will occur as a result of the retirement of the Honorable George Petersen on June 7, 2002. The application period for this vacancy will be added to a previously announced Second Judicial District vacancy due to the conversion of a vacant referee position.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Second Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for these vacancies must submit an application. Candidates do not need to apply for each vacancy separately. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 12, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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METROPOLITAN COUNCIL VACANCY ANNOUNCED

(St. Paul) Governor Jesse Ventura has begun the process of filling the current opening on the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council District #15 seat is vacant due to the death of Carolyn Rodriguez, who was appointed by Governor Ventura in 1999. Council District 15 includes the Dakota County cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Lilydale, Mendota, and Mendota Heights.

In accordance with M.S. 473.123 subd. 3(c), Governor Ventura has appointed a nominating committee that will conduct an open appointments process designed to include input from local officials. The committee members are: Mayor Grace Arbogast, Brooklyn Park; Larry Dowell, president of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce; Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley City Council member; Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville; Commissioner Paul Krause, Dakota County; Lisa McDonald, former Minneapolis City Council member; and Mayor E. Craig Morris, Lakeland.

The committee will hold a public meeting to accept statements from or on behalf of persons who have applied or been nominated for appointment and to allow consultation with and secure the advice of the public and local elected officials. The meeting will be held at Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Residents of Council District #15 interested in applying should contact the Governor's office at 651-296-0019 or the Secretary of State at 651-296-0128 or www.sos.state.mn.us to obtain an application. Members of the Metropolitan Council must be knowledgeable in urban and metropolitan affairs.

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Thursday, March 28, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Kathleen Peterson and Donald Sitters to the Council on Disability. Both will serve three-year terms that expire on January 3, 2005.

Peterson, Warren, is a deaf/hard of hearing consultant and a sign language interpreter. Peterson replaces Michele Kyler as a resident of development region one.

Sitters, Hibbing, is an independent living specialist and recreation coordinator at the Center for Independent Living of Northeastern Minnesota. Sitters replaces Carolyn Russell as a resident of development region three.

The Council on Disability advises the governor, legislature, service-providing agencies and the public on the needs and potentials of people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities; provides information regarding available services and opportunities; and advocates needed plans, programs and policies. The council consists of 21 members appointed by the governor.

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Thursday, March 28, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO MAEF

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Jim Bartholomew, Jane Chronister, Jane Confer, Lynette Olson and Gary Schnellert, and the reappointment of Lurline Baker-Kent, Honorable Francis Connolly, Gregory Lea and Beverly Sullivan to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF).

Baker-Kent, Woodbury, is the executive director of the Center for Excellence in Urban Teaching at Hamline University in St. Paul. Baker-Kent, who has served on MAEF since November 1998, is appointed as a representative of education to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Bartholomew, Edina, is the education director for the Minnesota Business Partnership. Bartholomew replaces Dayna Deutsch, who resigned as a representative of business, to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

Chronister, Bloomington, is an independent consultant who works with businesses and non-profits. Chronister replaces Paula Prahl as a representative of business for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Confer, Mankato, is vice president of the Mankato Area Foundation and an administrator at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Confer replaces Terry Egge as a representative of business for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Connolly, Minneapolis, is a Fourth Judicial District trial court judge in Hennepin County. Connolly, who has served on MAEF since September 1993, is appointed as a representative of business for another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Lea, Eden Prairie, is the corporate vice president of business ventures with Jostens Corporation in Minneapolis. Lea, who has

served on MAEF since February 1994, is appointed as a representative of business for another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Olson, Cambridge, is the associate dean for instructional technology at Pine Technological College in Pine City. Olson replaces Mark Gleason, who resigned as a representative of education, to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Schnellert, Sartell, is the chairperson of the educational leadership/community psychology department at St. Cloud State University. Schnellert replaces Virginia Clark, who resigned as a representative of education, to complete a four-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Sullivan, Rochester, has been a high school teacher for 34 years. Sullivan, who has served on MAEF since June 1991, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation is a non-profit, public-private partnership that is the primary advocate for the promotion and recognition of academic excellence in all of Minnesota's elementary and secondary schools. The foundation consists of 21 members representing business and education appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, March 27, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS BOMIER TO EQB

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Bruce Bomier to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

Bomier, Anoka, is the founder and president of the Environmental Resource Council, founder, owner and board chair of the Institute for Environmental Assessment, Inc., and the past board chair of the Minnesota Institute of Public Health. Bomier, who has served on the board since November 1991, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board ensures coordination and cooperation among state agencies on environmental issues and advises the governor and legislature on environmental legislation and issues. The board consists of 15 members, including five public members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, March 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BUELTEL TO THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Owatonna, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Joseph Bueltel to a new trial court judgeship in the Third Judicial District. This position is one of five district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Owatonna in Steele County. Twenty-one people applied for this position.

Bueltel is the Third Judicial District Chief Public Defender, a position he has held since 1999. He was an assistant public defender and managing attorney in the Third Judicial District from 1992 to 1999, an associate attorney for the Owatonna law firm of Smith and Tollefson from 1988 to 1994 and a Third Judicial District law clerk in Faribault from 1987 to 1988. Bueltel earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1987, his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1984 and his associate of arts degree from Normandale Community College in Bloomington in 1982.

"Joe's enthusiasm for the law is evident from the first time you meet him," Governor Ventura said. "He is also in touch with the people who live in Owatonna and will help bring solutions to the challenges that a growing community faces."

Bueltel is a member and past president of the Steele County Bar Association, is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Fifth District Bar Association, National Legal Aid and Defender Association and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a judge for the State High School Mock Trial Program, a member of the Freeborn County Justice Project, Freeborn County Substance Abuse Court Planning Committee, Dodge County Alternative to Addiction, and Olmsted County Restorative Justice Programming Group. Bueltel is also active with

the Steele County Habitat for Humanity and as a volunteer coach with the Owatonna Park and Recreation Department.

Bueltel, 40, was born in St. Paul and resides in Owatonna with his wife, Tracy Bains Bueltel. They have three children, Zachary, 8, Elena, 3, and Matthew, 1.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, March 19, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS STOFFERAHN TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of David Stofferahn to the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA). Stofferahn replaces the Honorable Steven Wheeler to complete a six-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Stofferahn, St. Paul, has been an attorney representing injured workers in workers compensation claims and in social security disability claims with the law firm of Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum and Carey in Minneapolis since 1976. Stofferahn earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

Stofferahn is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association and has been recognized as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" by Woodward/White, and a "Super Lawyer" by *Minnesota Law and Politics.*

In appointing Stofferahn, Governor Ventura said, "David will be a great complement to a court with an excellent reputation among workers' compensation lawyers."

Stofferahn, 54, was born in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and resides in St. Paul with his wife, Elizabeth. They have three children.

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals has statewide appellate jurisdiction over all workers' compensation appeals. The court consists of five judges who have experience with and knowledge of workers' compensation laws and have been licensed to practice law in Minnesota for at least five years.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 18, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVEN TO BOARD ON AGING

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of James Bougie, the Honorable Terry Dempsey, Laurie Laner and Donald Tomsche and the reappointment of Jayne Hager Dee, Larry Fortner and Beth Nelson to the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Bougie, Afton, has held numerous positions in the defense industry, including working at the Department of Defense and the Defense Systems Division at Unisys. He has also owned a variety of small businesses in Minnesota. Bougie replaces Roger Boatman for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Dee, Northfield, is the Dakota County Extension Director with the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Dee, who has served on the board since January 2001, is appointed to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Dempsey, New Ulm, retired last month as a Fifth Judicial District trial court judge and is a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, where he served as House Minority Leader. Dempsey replaces Marla Betsy Siegel-Garcia for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Fortner, Duluth, is editor and publisher of The Senior Reporter magazine, producer of six regional senior resource guides, coordinator of the Duluth Aging Network, vice president of the Elder Circle Board in Itasca County and president of the Elder Services Network of Northern St. Louis County. Fortner, who has served on the board since July 1997, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Laner, Minneapolis, is president of Financial Designs, Inc., in St. Louis Park, was president and chairperson of the International Association of Financial Planning and has been an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, teaching a program on

retirement planning and employee benefits for certified financial planners. Laner replaces Mary Koep for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Nelson, Maplewood, is the manager of strategic alliance public programs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, was the director of an area agency on aging and worked at the office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans. Nelson, who has served on the board since January 2001, is appointed to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Tomsche, Oakdale, recently retired after 41 years of employment with the state of Minnesota, including 35 years with the Department of Corrections, where he was a prison warden and deputy commissioner. He is currently vice chair of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. Tomsche will complete a four-year term on the board that expires on January 5, 2004. He replaces Carolyn Tasker, who resigned.

The Minnesota Board on Aging develops, coordinates, evaluates and administers federal and state funds for programs for the aging; makes grants to 14 area agencies on aging and non-profit agencies; and serves as an advocate for older persons. The board consists of 25 members appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO STATE ARTS BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Lorraine LeBlanc and Pamela Perri Weaver to the Minnesota State Arts Board. Both appointees will serve four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

LeBlanc, St. Paul, has been a professional fund-raiser and has a background in budgeting, staff management, strategic planning and program development and currently serves on the board of the Girl Scout Council of St. Croix Valley. LeBlanc replaces Lois West as a member residing in the Fourth Congressional District.

Weaver, Anoka, is the executive vice president of the Builders Association of Minnesota, was a public policy manager in Governor Ventura's office and was executive director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. Weaver replaces Gary Woeltge as a member residing in the Sixth Congressional District.

The Minnesota State Arts Board is dedicated to making the arts available to all citizens of Minnesota through a series of grants, programs and services. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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Thursday, March 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Lars Erdahl, Bea Hoffmann and James Nelson, and the reappointment of John Kvasnicka to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Erdahl, Minnetrista, is employed in the education department at the Minnesota Zoological Garden in Apple Valley. Erdahl, who will complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003, replaces Emily Fruchtman, who resigned.

Hoffmann, Winona, is the executive director of the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board in Winona. Hoffmann replaces Nancy Reynolds as a resident of the First Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Kvasnicka, Dodge Center, owns Wildlife Consulting Services. Kvasnicka, who have served on the committee since February 1998, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Nelson, Columbia Heights, operates his own real estate company and currently serves as a member of the Metropolitan Council. Nelson replaces Guy Glover as a resident of the Sixth Congressional District for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee advises the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) on a strategic plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Citizens' Advisory Committee consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.



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For immediate release:
Friday, March 15, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO VETERANS HOMES BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Frank Budd, M.D., and the appointment of Mel Euteneuer and Byron Opstad to the Minnesota Veterans Homes Board of Directors

Budd, Duluth, is a physician and retired United States Navy Captain physician. Budd, who has served on the board since February 1998, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Euteneuer, Little Falls, is a part-time volunteer executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Morrison County and a retired chief executive officer and administrator of St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls. Euteneuer replaces Harvey Aaron for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Opstad, Bloomington, is a pharmacy surveyor with the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy and retired as the chief of the pharmacy service at the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center. Opstad, who will complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004, replaces Ann Nistler, who resigned.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes Board of Directors determines policy and adopts, amends, and repeals rules for the governance of the Minnesota veterans' homes. The board consists of nine voting members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, March 13, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MINGE TO COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of David Minge to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Minge is a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., a fellow in the W.W. Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Policy Program and a lecturer at the University of Minnesota, Morris. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Minnesota's Second Congressional District from 1993 to 2001, an attorney with the Nelson, Oyen, Torvik, Minge and Gilbertson law firm in Montevideo from 1977 through 1992, a professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law in Laramie from 1970 to 1977 and an attorney with the Faegre and Benson law firm in Minneapolis from 1967 to 1970. Minge earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1967 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1964.

"Congressman Minge is a man of great intellect and integrity who demonstrated his collegiality as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives," Governor Ventura said. "But he is not just a politician; he is a lawyer who has practiced in the city as well as the country. He has also taught law. He is ideally suited to be a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals."

Minge was co-founder and chair of the Agricultural Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, a board member and chair of Western Minnesota Legal Services, and a participant in the Volunteer Attorney Program. He also served on the Montevideo School Board, the Montevideo Chamber of Commerce Board, the Montevideo Community Development Board, and was co-founder and a member of Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) Board.

Minge, 59, was born in Clarkfield and lives in Montevideo with his wife, Karen. They have two sons, Erik, 34, and Olaf, 31. Minge

replaces the Honorable Gary Crippen, who will retire as a judge of the Court of Appeals on April 2, 2002.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of trial courts other than conciliation courts except for appeals in certain election contests, convictions of murder in the first degree and appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges: eight at-large seats and eight seats designated for each of the state's congressional districts.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, March 12, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of James Peterson and Myrla Seibold, Ph.D., and the appointment of Scott Terhune, Ph.D., to the Board of Psychology. All three persons are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Peterson, Medina, is a semi-retired attorney in private practice. Peterson, who has served on the board since June 1999, is reappointed as a public member.

Seibold, New Brighton, is a professor of psychology and graduate program clinical director at Bethel College in St. Paul. Seibold, who has served on the board since October 2000, is reappointed as a licensed psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology.

Terhune, Eagan, is a forensic and clinical psychologist in private practice. Terhune replaces Dr. Samuel Albert as a licensed psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology.

The Board of Psychology examines, licenses and regulates the professional conduct of psychologists. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS REILING TO CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of David Reiling to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

Reiling, Minneapolis, is president of University National Bank in St. Paul. Reiling, who has served on the board since August 1997, is appointed to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board is responsible for the architecture, urban design, and comprehensive land-use planning in the capitol area of St. Paul, exercises zoning and design review authority, and oversees redevelopment of the north capitol area. The board consists of 10 members, including four appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS SCHWARTZ TO BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Burton Schwartz, M.D., to the Board of Medical Practice.

Schwartz, Plymouth, is a doctor of oncology in Minneapolis and a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota. He also serves on the Hennepin Medical Society's Ethics Committee. Schwartz, who has served on the board since February 1998 and chairs its Licensure Committee, is appointed as a physician member to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Board of Medical Practice examines, licenses and registers medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy, midwives and physician assistants, respiratory care practitioners, acupuncturists, and athletic trainers and enforces relevant practice acts. The board consists of 16 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS HETLAND TO OSHA REVIEW BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Jerry Hetland to the Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Review Board.

Hetland, Miltona, is general manager of Vinylite Windows in Fergus Falls and has been in business for over 30 years. Hetland, who has served on the board since April 1998, is appointed as a representative of management to another four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

The Occupational Safety and Health Review Board reviews cases involving OSHA citations and proposed penalties. The board consists of three members, including a representative of labor, management and the public.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS AXELROD TO PETROFUND BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Leonard Axelrod to the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (Petrofund Board).

Axelrod, St. Paul, is the deputy-in-charge of the St. Paul Division of United States Bankruptcy Court. Axelrod, who has been a member of the board since May 1994, is appointed as a public member to another four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

The Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board administers compensation from the petroleum tank release clean-up fund for cleanup of leaks and spills from storage tanks. The board consists of five members, including three public members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, March 8, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a vacancy on the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals which occurred with the resignation of the Honorable Steven Wheeler on January 7, 2002. Judge Wheeler resigned to become a Second Judicial District trial court judge in Ramsey County. The finalists are Bradley Behr, David Stofferahn and Sara Stoltman.

Behr, Edina, has been a workers' compensation judge at the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings since 1987. He was a solo practitioner from 1982 to 1987 and an attorney with the law firm of Fred Allen and Associates in Bloomington from 1978 to 1982. Behr earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1977 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1973.

Stofferahn, St. Paul, has been an attorney representing injured workers in workers compensation claims and in social security disability claims with the law firm of Sieben, Grose, Von Holtum and Carey in Minneapolis since 1976. Stofferahn earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

Stoltman, Prior Lake, has been legal counsel for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and the special compensation fund since 1986. She was a research attorney for the law offices of James J. Duryea in San Francisco, California from 1983 to 1985, and a law clerk for Legal Services Corporation of Iowa in Council Bluffs in 1981. Stoltman earned her juris doctorate degree from Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska in 1982 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the College of St.

Teresa in Winona in 1979.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 20 applications for this judicial vacancy.

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals has statewide appellate jurisdiction over all workers' compensation appeals. The court consists of five judges who have experience with and knowledge of workers' compensation laws and have been licensed to practice law in Minnesota for at least five years.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, March 7, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Mike Landy and John Williams, DDS, to the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

Landy, St. Cloud, is the chief executive officer of Landy Beef International, Inc., the owner of Landy Properties in St. Cloud and the owner of Cake Candy and Wedding Supply Company in Waite Park. He is also a member of the St. Cloud City Council, currently serving as its vice president. Landy replaces John Kahler as a representative of key airport systems outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area for a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Williams, Minneapolis, has been a dentist in private practice in Minneapolis since 1979 and holds a private pilot's license. He was an offensive lineman for the Los Angeles Rams from 1972 to 1979 and the Baltimore Colts from 1968 to 1971 of the National Football League. Williams' currently chairs the North Minneapolis Health Advisory Committee and has served on the Community Action Agency of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Urban League. Williams replaces Alton "Joe" Gasper, who resigned from MAC District "D", to complete a four-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission promotes air transportation locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally by developing the Twin Cities metropolitan area as an aviation center. The commission consists of 15 members, including 13 appointed by the governor, one appointed by the mayor of Minneapolis and one appointed by the mayor of St. Paul.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, March 6, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy that will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Kenneth Maas on April 30, 2002. The Supreme Court has transferred the chambers of this judgeship to the city of Buffalo in Wright County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Tenth Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via E-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Wednesday, April 3, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the Commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, March 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Jerome Deal, Paul Krabbenhoft and Clair Nelson to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. All three persons are appointed to four-year terms expiring on January 2, 2006.

Deal, Wheaton, is the president of Bois de Sioux Watershed, a member of the Red River Watershed Management Board, and the Red River Flood Reduction Work Group. Deal, who is currently vice-president of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, has served on the board as a representative of watershed districts since December 1998.

Krabbenhoft, Moorhead, has been an elected supervisor to the Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District since 1985 and has been its acting chair since 1995. He has also been co-director of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District for Area II, which includes 15 Minnesota Counties, since 1995. Krabbenhoft has served on the board as a representative of soil and water conservation district supervisors since February 1998.

Nelson, Finland, has been an elected member of the Lake County Board of Commissioners since 1997 and serves on a number of local boards and committees. Nelson has served on the board since December 1998 as a representative of county commissioners.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources coordinates the water and soil resources management activities of local units of government through educational activities, approval of local plans, administration of state grants and cost-sharing contracts. The board consists of 12 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, March 1, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the ad hoc committee to fill the upcoming Second Congressional District vacancy on the Minnesota Court of Appeals created by the retirement of the Honorable Gary Crippen. Judge Crippen's retirement is effective on April 2, 2002. The finalists are the Honorable Jeffrey Flynn and David Minge.

Flynn, Worthington, is a Fifth Judicial District trial court judge chambered in Worthington. He has been a district court judge since 1984 and was Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District from 1993 to 1997. Flynn was an attorney with the Flynn and Lucht law firm in Worthington from 1978 to 1984 and a part-time assistant Fifth Judicial District public defender from 1980 to 1982. He was also an associate attorney with the law firm of Grose, Von Hultum, Sieben and Schmidt in Minneapolis from 1975 to 1978 and a clerk with the firm from 1971 to 1975. Flynn earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1975 and his bachelor of science degree from St. John's University in Collegeville in 1971.

Minge, Montevideo, is a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., a fellow in the W.W. Kellogg Foundation Food and Society Policy Program and a lecturer at the University of Minnesota, Morris. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Minnesota's Second Congressional District from 1993 to 2001, an attorney with the Nelson, Oyen, Torvik, Minge and Gilbertson law firm in Montevideo from 1977 through 1992, a professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law in Laramie from 1970 to 1977 and an attorney with the Faegre and Benson law firm in Minneapolis from 1967 to 1970. Minge earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1967 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude

from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1964.

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of trial courts other than conciliation courts except for appeals in certain election contests, convictions of murder in the first degree, and appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges: eight at-large seats and eight seats designated for each of the state's congressional districts. The committee received four risumis for this position.

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For immediate release:
Monday, February 25, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy which will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Mason on May 4, 2002. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Mankato in Blue Earth County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Fifth Judicial District may request an application for this vacancy by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Wednesday, March 20, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, February 25, 2002

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that the Honorable Roland Amundson has resigned as a Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, effective February 24, 2002. The governor accepted Judge Amundson's resignation today. Judge Amundson has served as an at-large Court of Appeals Judge since January 7, 1991.

Licensed Minnesota attorneys who wish to apply for the position should submit a letter of interest and risumi to:

John Hultquist, Judicial Appointments Coordinator
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates who wish to be considered for this position must submit their risumi and letter of interest to be received by the governor's office no later than **Monday, March 25, 2002**.

A seven-member ad hoc screening committee consisting of Governor Ventura's at-large appointees to the Commission on Judicial Selection will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to Governor Ventura for this vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Friday, February 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of A. Hilda Bettermann, Rebecca Hafner, M.D., and Gloria Perez Jordan and the appointment of Allen Rasmussen to the Board of Medical Practice.

Bettermann, Brandon, is an instructor at Alexandria Technical College and served four terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Bettermann, who has served on the board since June 1998, is appointed as a public member to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Hafner, Avon, is a physician practicing primarily at St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville. Her practice includes rural private practice, managed care and college health services. Hafner, who has served one four-year term on the board, is appointed to another term as a physician member that expires on January 2, 2006.

Jordan, St. Paul, is the executive director of the Jeremiah Program, a community initiative based in Minneapolis aimed at assisting low-income women with children in becoming self-sufficient. Jordan, who has served on the board since July 2000, is appointed as a public member to a four-year term that expires on January 2, 2006.

Rasmussen, International Falls, is interim superintendent of Independent School District 361 in International Falls. Rasmussen replaces Robert Ferderer as a public member of the board to complete a four-year term that expires on January 5, 2004.

The Board of Medical Practice examines, licenses and registers medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy, midwives and physician assistants, respiratory care practitioners, acupuncturists, and athletic trainers and enforces relevant practice acts. The board consists of

16 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, February 21, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWELVE TO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Ella Gross, Emily Knight, Nina Mae Moss, Jeffrey Skwarek, Virginia Smith, and Sarah Thorson and the reappointment of David Dunn, Anne Henry, Sharon Heuring, Steve Larson, Ordean Rosaasen and Thomas Schwartz to the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, the governor also reappointed Jackie Mlynarczyk chair of the council.

Dunn, Rochester, is reappointed as a public member for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005. Dunn has served on the council since 1999.

Gross, Minneapolis, replaces Beverly St. John as a parent of an adult child with developmental disabilities for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Henry, Minneapolis, is reappointed as a protection and advocacy member for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005. Henry has served on the council since 1999.

Heuring, Litchfield, is reappointed as a parent of an adult child with developmental disabilities for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Knight, Minneapolis, replaces Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock as a representative of the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning for a three year-term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Larson, St. Paul, is reappointed as a representative of the Minnesota Department of Human Services for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Moss, Minneapolis, replaces Claudia Carlisle as a self-advocate

member to complete a three-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

Rosaasen, Willmar, is reappointed as a self-advocate member for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005. Rosaasen has served on the council since 1999.

Schwartz, Eden Prairie, is reappointed as a parent of a child with developmental disabilities for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005. Schwartz has served on the council since 1999.

Skwarek, Minneapolis, replaces Avis Kruger as a self-advocate member for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Smith, Inver Grove Heights, replaces Kathleen Lynch as a parent of an adult child with developmental disabilities for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

Thorson, St. Paul, replaces Nancy Vanderburg as a representative of the Minnesota Department of Health for a three-year term that expires on January 3, 2005.

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities supervises the development of the state plan describing the quality, extent, and scope of services being provided to persons with developmental disabilities. The council consists of 25 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
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GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Referee Susan Carlson, Paul Kiltinen and Michael Mayer and the appointment of Reverend Devin Miller to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC). All four are appointed to four-year terms expiring on January 2, 2006.

Carlson, Forest Lake, is a Hennepin County Juvenile Court Referee in Minneapolis. She has served on the committee since May 1998.

Kiltinen, Kasson, is an attorney in private practice and the Dodge County Attorney. As Dodge County Attorney, he is the juvenile prosecutor for the county. Kiltinen has served on the committee since December 1993.

Mayer, Eagan, is an attorney in the Grannis and Hauge law firm in Eagan. He serves on the National Steering Committee for Juvenile Justice and is chair of the Midwest Region for the National Coalition. Mayer, who is currently vice-chair of JJAC, has served on the committee since June 1995.

Miller, St. Paul, is an associate pastor at Gospel Temple Church in St. Paul. He is the director of a youth and essential service agency in St. Paul and was a board member of the Minnesota Institute of Technology Charter School in St. Paul. Miller replaces Dianne Ward on the committee.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee awards grants and carries out the state plan of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. The committee consists of 18 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, February 20, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS JOHNSON CHIEF JUDGE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of the Honorable Thomas Johnson as Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA). Johnson replaces the Honorable Steven Wheeler, who resigned in January to become a district court judge.

Johnson, Eagan, was reappointed as a judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals by Governor Ventura last year for a term that expires on January 1, 2007. He has been a WCCA Judge since 1992 and was a workers' compensation judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings before going to the WCCA.

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals has statewide appellate jurisdiction over all workers' compensation appeals. The court consists of five judges who have experience with and knowledge of workers' compensation laws and have been licensed to practice law in Minnesota for at least five years.

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For immediate release:
Friday, February 15, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO BOARD OF ELECTRICITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Jay Cain, Gary Novak, and Richard Smith and the reappointment of Richard Luck to the Board of Electricity. All four persons are appointed to four-year terms expiring on January 2, 2006.

Cain, Stillwater, is the principal, electrical engineering manager and administrative manager of Cain Ouse Associates, Inc., in White Bear Lake. He has over 25 years of experience as a consulting electrical engineer. Cain replaces James Moravek as a representative of registered consulting electrical engineers.

Luck, Duluth, is a co-owner of Gartner Refrigeration Company in Duluth. He has been a licensed alarm and communications contractor in Minnesota since 1987 and a registered professional engineer in Minnesota and Wisconsin since 1977. Luck, who is a past president of the Board of Electricity, has served on the board as a representative of licensed alarm and communications systems contractors since 1994.

Novak, Maple Grove, is president of Industrial Electric Company in Minneapolis and has been an electrical contractor with the company for 32 years. He holds a Minnesota State Class A Masters License. Novak replaces Karen Retka as a representative of master electricians.

Smith, Burnsville, is executive vice president of Trans-Alarm, Inc., in Burnsville. He has been a contractor for 32 years, and is a member of the Minnesota Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, National Fire Protection Association, Central Station Alarm Association and Automatic Fire Alarm Association. Smith replaces John Ryder as a representative of licensed alarm and communications systems contractors.

The Board of Electricity licenses electricians and inspects all new electrical installations in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair. The board consists of 11 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, February 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Scott Harr and the reappointment of Chief Steven Madson to the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board). Both persons are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Harr, Edina, is the chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Concordia University in St. Paul. He was an assistant professor at the School of Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice and Public Safety at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, a faculty instructor in law enforcement, criminal justice, private security and sociology programs at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Public Safety Director for the City of Chanhassen, and a police officer for the cities of Chaska and Edina. Harr replaces Jay Lee as a representative of former peace officers now employed on a full-time basis in a professional peace officer education program.

Madson, Hutchinson, has been the Chief of Police for the city of Hutchinson for 14 years and is an active member of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Assoication. Madson, who has served one four-year term on the board, is appointed to another term as a representative of municipal police chiefs.

The Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training establishes minimum qualifications and standards of conduct and regulates professional peace officer education and continuing education programs. The board consists of 15 members, including 14 appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS BASKFIELD TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. James, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Allison Krehbiel Baskfield to a Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of St. James in Watonwan County. The opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Terry Dempsey on February 28, 2002. Sixteen people applied for this vacancy.

Baskfield is an assistant Fifth Judicial District public defender in Madelia, a position she has held since 1999. She was an assistant Minneapolis city attorney and legal advisor to the Minneapolis Police Department from 1995 to 1998, acting deputy Minneapolis city attorney in 1995 an assistant Minneapolis city attorney from 1992 to 1995, and an associate attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of LaBore and Juliano in 1992. Baskfield earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1991 and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1984. She also did some undergraduate coursework at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas.

"Allison brings the right mix of background and personal qualities to this judgeship," Governor Ventura said. "She has been a criminal defender in rural Minnesota and a prosecutor in the city. She has a no nonsense style but brings a sensitivity to ethnic and cultural issues. And, having grown up on a farm, Allison is not afraid of hard work."

While in the Minneapolis City Attorney's office, Baskfield taught Criminal Constitutional Law, Employment Law, Sexual Harassment and Civil Liability to Minneapolis Police Officers. She also taught a course on Domestic Assault and Loss of Firearms and published an article on "The New Domestic Abuse Law: Officers without Weapons" for the National Association of Chiefs of Police. Baskfield's community activities include serving on the Watonwan County Library Board and coaching Madelia summer

recreational youth programs.

Baskfield, 40, was born in Freeman, South Dakota, grew up in Mountain Lake, and resides in Madelia with her husband, Patrick. They have three daughters.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, February 14, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS BUSH TO FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Marshall, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Leland Bush to a Fifth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Marshall in Lyon County. The opening will occur with the retirement of the Honorable George Marshall on April 1, 2002. Eleven people applied for this vacancy.

Bush has been a self-employed attorney in Tyler since 1979. He was an attorney in the law office of David M. Watson in Tyler from 1976 to 1979 and was a part-time business law instructor at Minnesota State University, Marshall (then called Southwest State University) in 1977. Bush earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of science degree from Southwest State University in 1973. He also did some undergraduate coursework at Macalester College in St. Paul.

"Lee has been one of the busiest lawyers not just in southwestern Minnesota, but in the whole state for 25 years," Governor Ventura said. "In addition, he is very detail-oriented, a quality that will serve him well as a judge."

Bush is a member of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, Minnesota State Bar Association, and Ninth District Bar Association, of which he was president and chair of its ethics committee. He is also a member and past president of the Lyon-Lincoln County Bar Association. Bush is a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest State University Foundation, the Russell Lions Club, the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce and the Tyler Regional Economic Development Committee.

Bush, 50, was born in Tyler and resides in rural Russell with his wife, Pamela. They have two daughters, Susan, 20, and Janet, 18.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, February 13, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a new Third Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship, which takes effect on April 1, 2002, for the city of Owatonna in Steele County. The finalists are Joseph Bueltel, Keith Deike and Thomas Neuville.

Bueltel, Owatonna, is the Third Judicial District Chief Public Defender, a position he has held since 1999. He was an assistant public defender and managing attorney in the Third Judicial District from 1992 to 1999, an associate attorney for the Owatonna law firm of Smith and Tollefson from 1988 to 1994 and a Third Judicial District law clerk in Faribault from 1987 to 1988. Bueltel earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1987, his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1984 and his associate of arts degree from Normandale Community College in Bloomington in 1982.

Deike, Waseca, is an attorney with the Waseca law firm of Patton, Hoversten and Berg, a position he has held since 1994. He was a solo practitioner in Waseca from 1983 to 1994. Deike has also been a part-time Third Judicial District Public Defender in Waseca from 1990 to 1996 and a prosecutor for the city of Waseca from 1991 to 1994. Deike earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1983 and his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Mankato State University in 1979.

Neuville, Northfield, is an attorney and partner in the Northfield law firm of Grundhoefer, Neuville and Ludescher and a Minnesota State Senator, representing Senate District 25. He has been an attorney with the Grundhoefer firm since 1976 and a state senator since 1991. Neuville has also been the contract attorney for the city of

Dundas since 1990 and was the contract attorney for the city of Lonsdale from 1978 to 1980 as well as a part-time assistant public defender in the Third Judicial District in Rice County from 1977 to 1996. Neuville earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1976 and his bachelor of science degree from Michigan Technical University in Houghton, Michigan in 1972.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the Governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the Governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 21 applications for this judicial position.

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For immediate release:
Friday, February 8, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS PRESSLER TO THE BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointment of Thomas Pressler to the Board of Firefighter Training and Education.

Pressler, of Bloomington, has served as a Bloomington volunteer firefighter for 20 years. He is the president of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association, secretary and treasurer of the Fire Instructors Association of Minnesota and vice-chairman of the Minnesota Fire Service Joint Council. He will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board reviews fire service training needs and makes recommendations on training to Minnesota fire service organizations, establishes standards for educational programs for the fire service and establishes qualifications for fire training service instructors.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, February 6, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE JUDICIAL STANDARDS BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Martha Holton Dimick, Jacquelyn Hauser and Judge Gary Pagliacetti to the Board on Judicial Standards. All three persons are appointed to four-year terms expiring on January 2, 2006.

Dimick, Shorewood, is currently an assistant Hennepin County Attorney in the adult prosecution division and a community prosecutor for the Minneapolis Police Department Fourth Precinct. She was an associate attorney in the litigation department at Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty and Bennett in Minneapolis and an associate attorney in the Minneapolis law firm of Mackall, Crounse and Moore. Dimick replaces Barry Lazarus as an attorney member on the board.

Hauser, St. Louis Park, is currently the project director of the Hennepin County Domestic Fatality Review Pilot Project. From 1992 to 1999, she was executive director of WATCH, a non-profit organization that focuses on increasing the accountability and improving the public's understanding of the criminal justice and court system. Hauser replaces Verna Kelly as a public member on the board.

Pagliacetti, Virginia, is the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District in northeastern Minnesota. He has been a Sixth District Judge chambered in Virginia for twelve-and-a-half years. Pagliacetti replaces Judge Terry Dempsey as a trial court judge member of the board.

The Board on Judicial Standards investigates allegations of misconduct by Minnesota judges and referees and recommends discipline to the Minnesota Supreme Court, including censure, suspension, retirement or removal of judges. The board consists of 10 members appointed by the governor, including one judge of the

Court of Appeals, three trial court judges, two attorneys with at least 10 years of experience in the state and four public members.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, February 5, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CARLSON TO SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Jodie Carlson to the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

Carlson, St. Paul, is an attorney in the State Public Defender's office, handling criminal appeals and post-conviction matters. She has also been an attorney in the Seventh Judicial District Public Defender's office in Foley handling adult felony, gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency cases and child protection matters in district court. Carlson earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1991 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter in 1988. Carlson replaces Scott Swanson as a public defender member to complete a four-year term expiring on January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission develops and maintains rational and consistent sentencing standards which seek to reduce sentencing disparity, increase proportionality in sanctions, and ensure more equitable and uniform sentencing for convicted felons. The commission consists of 11 members, including seven appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ROSENBLUM AND APPOINTS BOYUM TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointment of Dr. Freeman Rosenblum and the appointment of Linda Boyum to the Board of Dentistry.

Rosenblum, of Burnsville has over thirty-two years experience as a dentist including private practice, on staff at Children's Healthcare St. Paul and as a Professor at the University of Minnesota. Rosenblum is reappointed to serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Boyum, of Minnetonka, has extensive involvement in the local, state and national dental assistants associations including a term as president of the Minnesota Dental Assistants Association. She is a dental assistant instructor and externship coordinator at Lakeland Medical and Dental Academy. Boyum will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The Board of Dentistry examines, licenses and registers dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. The board consists of 9 members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS DR. LORNA REICHL AND DR. JOANNE SCHULMAN TO THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointments of Dr. Lorna Reichl and Dr. Joanne Schulman to the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Reichl, of St. Paul, is the owner of Anderson Lakes Animal Hospital and Bird Clinic in Eden Prairie. She has been a veterinarian since 1988 and has experience in relief efforts, exotic animal and surgery and equine medicine. Reichl will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Schulman, of Golden Valley, has practiced veterinarian medicine since 1976 and has owned her own clinic since 1978. She served on the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association on the practice ethics and grievance committee for about 10 years and chaired the committee for about five years. Schulman will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board licenses and regulates veterinarians, registers veterinary corporations and investigates complaints.

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GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS GILCHRIST, LARSON AND SEAL TO THE BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointments of Troy Gilchrist, Dallas Larson and Ulysses Seal to the Board of Firefighter Training and Education.

Dallas Larson, of Cannon Falls, has been the city administrator of Cannon Falls for the past ten years. He has served as president of his church council for six years and as president of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He will be a city representative on the board.

Ulysses Seal, of Bloomington, is the chief of the Bloomington Fire Department and the assistant chief of the Minneapolis Fire Department. He previously served as the chief of training for the Minneapolis Fire Department. He will occupy a position of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association on the board.

Troy Gilchrist, of Becker, is an attorney with the Minnesota Association of Townships and has served as a volunteer firefighter for five years and as an EMT for six years. He has also worked with the Minnesota Association of Townships for nine years and has been a trustee of the Becker Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association for the past two years. He will occupy a position of Minnesota towns on the board.

The board reviews fire service training needs and makes recommendations on training to Minnesota fire service organizations, establishes standards for educational programs for the fire service and establishes qualifications for fire training service instructors.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS THOMPSON TO THE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Duane Thompson to the Board of Accountancy.

Thompson, of New Ulm, has 26 years experience in public accounting. He serves on the Legislative Issues Committee with the Minnesota Society of CPAs. He holds a master's in business taxation from the University of Minnesota. Thompson will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board examines, licenses and regulates certified public accountants and licensed public accountants. The board consists of nine members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS SCHNEIDER AND REAPPOINTS LEMBERG TO THE BOARD OF PHARMACY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Gary Schneider and the reappointment of Jean Lemberg to the Board of Pharmacy.

Schneider, of Plymouth, is a registered pharmacist in Minnesota and has been very active in many pharmacy organizations, both locally and nationally. He will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Lemberg, of Arden Hills, is a retired medical technologist at the University of Minnesota Hospital. She is also a committee member of St. Olaf Church, and an active member of the Minneapolis Art Institute and Minnesota Orchestra. Lemberg will serve a four-year term as a public member expiring January 2, 2006.

The board regulates the pharmacy profession and quality, labeling and distribution of drugs.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS EIGHT TO THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Connie Lee Berg, Carolyn Russell, Russell Philstrom, Dr. Greg Schlosser, David Schwartkopf, Nancy Eustis, John Tschida and Susan Abderholden

Appointee: Connie Lee Berg
Residing: Red Lake
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: Carolyn Russell
Residing: Duluth
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: Russell Philstrom
Residing: Emily
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: Dr. Greg Schlosser
Residing: Sartell
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: David Schwartzkopf
Residing: Rochester
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: Nancy Eustis
Residing: Minneapolis
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: John Tschida
Residing: Saint Paul
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

Appointee: Susan Abderholden

Residing: Red Lake
Term Expires: January 3, 2005

The 21 member council advises the governor, Legislature, service providing agencies and the public on the needs and potentials of people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities. The council provides information regarding available services, opportunities and advocates needed plans, progress and policies.

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GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointment of Penny Johnson to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Johnson, of Willmar, is a Guardian Ad Litem for the Eighth Judicial District and is also employed as a substitute decision-maker for adults committed as mentally ill in the Eighth Judicial District. Johnson retired after 34 years as a program director on the Adolescent Treatment Unit at Willmar Regional Treatment Center. Johnson is reappointed to serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board adopts and enforces rules relating to licensure of marriage and family therapists and for regulation of their professional conduct. The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Monday, January 31, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO RURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Lisa Heggedahl and Julian Sjostrom to the Minnesota Rural Finance Authority.

Heggedahl, Hayfield, is a registered angus seedstock producer, owning and managing 75 cow/calf pairs of breeding stock and 25 replacement heifers, and runs 460 acres of farmland. She is active in numerous beef associations and is president of the Dodge County Farmers Union. Heggedahl replaces Armin Tesch for a four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

Sjostrom, Pelican Rapids, has been a dairy farmer for 42 years, managing a 1,000 acre farm which includes 90 cows and 125 dairy steers. He is active in a variety of dairy herd associations and community organizations. Sjostrom replaces Marlene Malmstrom for a four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

The Minnesota Rural Finance Authority purchases participation interests in loans or selling Agricultural Development Revenue Bonds to agricultural lenders or farmers for the purchase of agricultural items. The Rural Finance Authority consists of 11 members who reside outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area appointed by the governor.

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Monday, January 31, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Dr. Mahesh Kumar and the appointment of Dr. John Whitten to the Board of Animal Health.

Kumar, Ph.D., St. Cloud, is a poultry health consultant. He has been the director of veterinary services at Earl B. Olson Farms and Koronis Mills, divisions of Jennie-O Foods, Inc., and Mile High Turkey Hatchery. He was also a research associate in disease control, diagnosis, treatment and prevention at the University of Minnesota. Kumar holds the equivalent of a DVM in veterinary medicine and animal husbandry from Bihar University in India. Kumar, who has served one four-year term on the board, is appointed to another term expiring on January 2, 2006.

Whitten, DVM, Alexandria, has been a licensed and accredited veterinarian since 1981 and has 16 years of regulatory experience as a state livestock market veterinarian. He received the Ideal Veterinarian Award and is a member of numerous professional associations. Whitten replaces Dr. Gary Leff, who resigned, to compete a four-year term expiring on January 3, 2005.

The Board of Animal Health carries out disease control programs for livestock and poultry. The board consists of five members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, January 30, 2002

GOVERNOR VENTURA APPOINTS TWO TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Susan Stevens Chambers and Clyde Miller to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Chambers, Mankato, is an attorney and partner with the Mankato law firm of Chesley, Kroon, Chambers & Harvey and the city attorney for the city of Good Thunder. She has also been a contract administrative law judge for the State of Minnesota, an adjunct professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has been an attorney for 23 years. She is active in numerous professional and community organizations, currently serving as President of the Southern Chapter of Minnesota Women Lawyers. Chambers replaces Shirley Chase, who resigned from the board last September to become commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, to complete a four-year term expiring on January 6, 2003.

Miller, Cambridge, is an attorney with the Cambridge law firm of Jennings, DeWan, Miller and Anderson. He has been an attorney with Parris, Miller and Maus in Hector and Cambridge, Parris Law Offices in Hector and Taylor and Miller in West St. Paul. Miller was named a qualified neutral by the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1997 and is a volunteer supervising attorney with the Minnesota Lawyers Board of Professional Responsibility. He was also a member of the Governor's and Citizen's League Task Force on Property Tax Reform. Miller replaces Donald Roggenbauer for a four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board administers programs for campaign finance disclosure for state candidates, economic interest disclosure for state and local officials, lobbyist registration and disclosure, and public subsidy of state candidates

and political party committees. The board consists of six members appointed by the governor, nor more than three of whom may support the same political party.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE AND APPOINTS TWO TO MIDWEST HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointments of David Laird and James McCormick and the reappointment of Robert Bruininks to the Midwest Higher Education Commission.

Laird, of Stillwater has over 30 years experience in state government, higher education finance, fund raising and college administration. He serves as the president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Private College Council, Fund Research Foundation, and Partners for Education Opportunity. Dr. Laird holds a B.A in government and history and M.Ed. in education and history from St. Lawrence University. He earned his Ph.D. From the University of Michigan where he served as a teaching fellow and completed a study of the relationship between the regents of the University of Michigan and the Michigan Legislature. Laird will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

McCormick, of Woodbury, is the chancellor for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. McCormick served 18 years as the founding chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. He has vast experience in collaboration efforts in all levels of education. McCormick will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

Bruininks, of Minneapolis, is the executive vice president and provost at the University of Minnesota. He holds a Ph.D. in education from George Peabody College (now of Vanderbilt University). Bruininks will complete his second term expiring January 6, 2003.

The commission is a nonprofit regional organization established by compact statute to assist midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Each state is represented by five members, three of whom are appointed by the governor and one designated by each body of the

Legislature.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Harvey Harvala and Doris Sullivan and the reappointment of Sonia Marie Maassel Jacobsen to the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design. All three persons are appointed to four-year terms that expire on January 2, 2006.

Harvala, Duluth, is currently Chairman of the Board of LHB Engineers and Architects and was one of the original shareholders of the firm. He has been a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota since 1970. Harvala replaces R. Richard Gauger as a representative of engineers.

Jacobsen, Roseville, is a hydraulic engineer with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and has 24 years of experience as an agricultural, civil and hydraulic engineer. Jacobsen, who has completed one four-year term on the board, is appointed to another term as a representative of engineers.

Sullivan, Minneapolis, has been a landscape architect with the United States Army Corps of Engineer for over 10 years and was named its Landscape Architect of the Year in 2000. She has over 25 years of experience in the public and private sectors. Sullivan replaces Gregory Kopischke as a representative of landscape architects.

The Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design licenses and regulates architects, engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists and certifies interior designers. The board

consists of 21 members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ILIFF TO BARBER BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Theresa Iliff to the Board of Barber Examiners.

Iliff, Little Canada, is co-owner of Airport Barber and Stylists at the Twin Cities International Airport and co-owner of Appearances Northstar in Minneapolis. Iliff, who has served two full terms on the board, is appointed as a barber member for another four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

The Board of Barber Examiners examines, registers and licenses barbers; enforces statutes regulating barbers, barber instructors, barber schools and shops. The board consists of four members, including three barbers and one public member.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, January 22, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of Herbert Brooks, Bernie Omann and Kenneth Resnick to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC). All three are appointed to three-year terms expiring on January 3, 2005.

Brooks, Birchwood, is the head coach of the 2002 United States Men's Olympic Hockey Team and has been active in amateur and professional hockey for over 20 years. Brooks has served on the MASC since1999.

Omann, Sartell, is Director of University Relations at Minnesota State University, St. Cloud and was Chief of Staff for Governor Arne Carlson and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Omann has served on the MASC since 1999.

Resnick, Edina, is vice president of Diverge Entertainment, based out of Las Vegas, and a host of and play-by-play announcer for TNN's *Rollerjam*. He has held numerous positions in the entertainment and professional sports industry for 30 years. Resnick has served on the MASC since 1996.

The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission supports the National Sports Center in Blaine, the amateur sports associations in the state and creates tourism through promoting amateur sports events, including the Star of the North State Games. The commission consists of 16 members, including 10 appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS SEVENTEEN TO CHILDREN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced seventeen appointments to the Children's Advisory Council.

Ruth Ann Belland, of Shoreview, is a social worker in an urban/suburban multi-cultural school. She will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

Misun Bormann, of Rochester, has been involved in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, Junior Achievement, Children's Theatre, and church youth programs. She will complete a term expiring January 5, 2004.

Brenda Cartwright, of Bemidji, is the chair of Mounted With Wings, a non-profit board that provides horseback riding for people with disabilities. She worked for a battered women's shelter for seven years with resident and non-resident children. Cartwright will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

Sigrid Hutcheson of Edina has over 19 years of experience in the field of mental health and substance abuse, specializing in information systems, evaluation, and training. As a Senior Information Systems Specialist at Johnson, Basin and Shaw, she provides leadership on information systems issues in the Technical Review and Technical Assistance Projects. Hutcheson will complete a term expiring January 5, 2004.

Julia Jaakola, of Fond du Lac, is a licensed social worker who has been the coordinator of the Social Services Department on the Fond du Lac Reservation for nearly 15 years. She currently chairs the Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council. Jaakola will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Delores Henderson, of Mendota Heights, is an administrator for Saint Paul Public Schools. She is an educator and advocate for

children and has won numerous awards for her community activities. Henderson will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

Maryanne Law, of Austin, has been the executive director of the Parenting Resource Center, Inc. since 1995. She will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

Tracy Martinez, of Faribault, has worked professionally as an abused children's advocate for a rural domestic violence agency. She will complete a term expiring January 5, 2004.

Reverend Martin McCawan, of Minneapolis, has lots of experience working on councils and working with people. He will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

Monuafu Mouanoutoua, of St. Paul, is a program manager for the Women's Association of Hmong and Lao, Hmong New Age Parenting Program. She is also trained in family law mediation and is currently listed in both Ramsey and Hennepin counties as an alternative dispute resolution mediator. Mouanoutoua will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

Susan Murray, of St. Paul, is the executive director of the Family Support Network. She will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Sue Litecky, of Crystal, has served and supported families and their children in many local initiatives. Currently she works as a financial consultant with Smith Barney. Litecky will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

Sandy Davidson, of Blaine, works for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. She will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

Paula Pater, of Marshall, is the director for New Horizons Crisis Center. She will complete a term expiring January 3, 2005.

Guadalupe Serrano, of West St. Paul, is the executive director of Casa de Experanza, a domestic violence organization serving the Twin Cities area. She will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Mary Kay Stranik, of St. Louis Park, has 36 years of local, state and national work as a nurse and parent educator. She will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Maryjane Westra, of Fergus Falls, is the director of an adoption agency. She will complete a term expiring January 5, 2004.

The council will focus on the existing and emerging issues in areas of
child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention in the state of Minnesota. The 22-member council will assist in the development of resources, informing a statewide needs assessment and make recommendations to optimize well of child and families.

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For immediate release:
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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES COURT OF APPEALS VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced that the Honorable Gary Crippen will be retiring as a Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, effective April 2, 2002. Judge Crippen has served as a Court of Appeals Judge from the Second Congressional District since April 1, 1984.

Licensed Minnesota attorneys who have resided in the Second Congressional District for at least one year and wish to apply for the position should submit a letter of interest and risumi to:

John Hultquist, Judicial Appointments Coordinator
Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates who wish to be considered for this position must submit their risumi and letter of interest to be received by the governor's office no later than **Wednesday, February 13, 2002**.

A nine-member ad-hoc screening committee consisting of Governor Ventura's at-large and Fifth Judicial District appointees to the Commission on Judicial Selection will review applications, conduct interviews, and make recommendations to Governor Ventura for this vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Friday, January 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS THREE TO STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointments of Corinne Ellingham, Terry McDevitt and Jack Schaff to the Board of Physical Therapy.

The governor appointed Ellingham, McDevitt and Schaff in 1999. The board was established in session year 1999. Governor Ventura has reappointed them to a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board evaluates the qualifications of applicants, issue subpoenas, examines witnesses and administers oaths, conducts hearings and keeps records and minutes necessary to the order by administration of sections 148.65 to 148.78. The board consists of nine members: four physical therapists, one licensed and registered doctor of medicine, one physical therapy assistant, and three public members.

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Friday, January 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO AND APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Steven Kavros and the reappointments of Roderic Marschke, and Judith Sperling to the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

Kavros, of Rochester, is a podiatrist at the Mayo Clinic. He will complete a term expiring January 5, 2004.

Marschke, of Little Canada, is a retired schoolteacher. He serves as a public member to the board. Marschke will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Sperling, of Minneapolis, is president of the board and serves on the disciplinary action committee. Sperling will serve as a podiatrist member for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board disciplines, licenses and registers podiatry corporations. The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor.

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Friday, January 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS ONE AND APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointments of Kimberly Keiholtz and Karen Trettel and reappoints Glenda Moyers to the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

Keiholtz, of Minneapolis, is a workforce diversity consultant for Xcel Energy. She holds a BA in Mathematics from Winona State University, an MA in organizational leadership from College of St. Catherine, and is currently working on her Ed. D. from the University of St. Thomas. Keiholtz will serve as a public member for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Moyers, of Mounds View, has spent twenty years at MnSCU as the supervisor of health occupations. She has thirty years of experience in nursing, including teaching and actual practice in acute and long-term care settings. Moyers was appointed in October to fill an unscheduled vacancy that expired in January. She is reappointed to serve as a practical nurse educator for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Trettel, of Minneapolis, is a licensed practical nurse at North Memorial Health Care. She is an advisory LPN to the technical school. Trettel will serve as an LPN for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board is a regulatory agency of the State of Minnesota whose mission is to protect the public's health and safety by providing reasonable assurance that the persons who practice nursing are competent, ethical practitioners with necessary knowledge and skills appropriate to their title and role. The board consists of sixteen members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE AND REAPPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Charme Davidson and the reappointment of Shireen Lee to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Davidson, of Minneapolis, has been in private practice since 1981. She has taught undergraduate as well as graduate level courses, has worked with couples, families and individuals and has offered supervisory and consultative service for many practicing mental health professionals. Davidson will serve as a marriage and family therapist for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Lee, of Virginia, is the program director of the Range Guardian ad Litem Program, Inc. She will serve as a public member for a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board adopts and enforces rules relating to licensure of marriage and family therapists and for regulation of their professional conduct. The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor.

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Friday, January 11, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS TWO TO BOARD OF DIETETICS AND NUTRITION PRACTICE

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointments of Randall Brown and Linda Dieleman to the Board of Dietetics and Nutrition Practice.

Brown, of Saint Paul, serves as the co-chairman and is a provider for consumers who receive nutritional service from the state. Brown will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

Dieleman, of Plymouth, is a manager at Saint Paul Public Schools in the food service division. She is a licensed nutritionist and will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board evaluates the qualifications of applicants for licensure of nutritionists and dietitians. The seven-member board also investigates violations and conducts hearings.

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Friday, January 4, 2002

GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS FINCH TO HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointment of Michael Finch to the Housing Finance Agency.

Finch, of Minneapolis, serves as chair on the agency. He holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Minnesota. He is reappointed to serve a four-year term expiring on January 2, 2006.

The Housing Finance Agency provides housing for low and moderate-income people. The authority consists of seven members.

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GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS GIBSON TO BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the reappointment of Michael Gibson to the Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

Gibson, of Wadena, is the administrator for Shady Lane Nursing Home in Wadena. He has been an administrator for the past 33 years for a non-profit category nursing home and is affiliated with the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance, an association of non-profit facilities. Gibson will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board licenses administrators of nursing homes, board/care homes and intermediate-care facilities. It conducts studies of nursing home administrations, approves continuing education programs for administrators, and investigates complaints and allegations of rule violations. The board consists of nine members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, January 4, 2002

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Teresa Marshall to the Minnesota Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Marshall, of Chaska, is the owner and chiropractic physician at the Mankato Chiropractic Center. She received her Doctor of Chiropractic at the Northwestern College of Chiropractic in 1992. Marshall will serve a four-year term expiring January 2, 2006.

The board examines, licenses and regulates chiropractors; sets board fees, prescribes rules relative to the examination of applications for license to practice and for renewals and handles complaints. The board consists of seven members.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, January 2, 2002

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Third Judicial District court trial bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Owatonna in Steele County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Third Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Thursday, January 24, 2002.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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2001 Appointments

December 12, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ARONSON TO SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

December 10, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

November 30, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

November 20, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

November 15, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

November 13, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

November 9, 2001

GOVERNOR VENTURA APPOINTS LEATHERDALE TO CHAIR COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE

October 30, 2001

GOVERNOR VENTURA REAPPOINTS TOUSSAINT CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

October 29, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

October 22, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

October 19, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS EIGHT TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO URBAN INITIATIVE BOARD

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

October 15, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA ARTS BOARD

October 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MEMBERS TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

October 1, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

September 10, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DIXON TO NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

September 7, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO BOARD OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

September 6, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

September 5, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

August 13, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 31, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO THE BOARD OF THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO THE COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN RADIO BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO THE CENTER FOR RURAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO MINNESOTA COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

July 24, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE NARROWS LIST OF MET COUNCIL APPLICANTS

July 19, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FINALISTS

July 12, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

July 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO RACING COMMISSION

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD

June 29, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 25, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

June 22, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES COUNCIL

June 19, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

June 18, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MNSCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 15, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 13, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY

June 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION (MAEF)

June 8, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO AUTO ASSIGNED CLAIMS BUREAU

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD ON AGING

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

June 6, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION (MAEF)

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO MINNESOTA ZOOLOGICAL BOARD

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PUBLIC PROGRAMS RISK ADJUSTMENT WORK GROUP

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTER (DECC)

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-10

Issued October 17, 2002

State of Minnesota

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

Executive Order 02-

ORDER TO AFFIRM THE GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this executive order.

WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Minnesota have a unique legal relationship with Indian tribes, as affirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties and statutes; and

WHEREAS, within Minnesota there are eleven federally recognized tribes with elected or appointed tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, a sovereign state within the United States, recognizes the inherent sovereignty of Indian tribes and their right to existence, self government and self determination; and

WHEREAS, state regulations and other policy statements or actions often have an impact on Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, state and tribal governments both play key roles in serving all citizens of Minnesota and collaboration between tribes and states will ensure that services are efficiently provided to all citizens, minimize service overlap, preserve natural resources and encourage sustainable economic development; and

WHEREAS, in order to advance both state and tribal concerns, it is necessary to maintain and foster a government-to-government relationship that is built on mutual respect for the sovereignty of both state and tribal governments;

NOW, THEREFORE I hereby order that:

1. Agencies of the State of Minnesota and persons employed by state agencies (the "State") shall recognize the unique legal relationship between the State of Minnesota and Indian tribes, respect the fundamental principles that establish and maintain this relationship and accord tribal governments the same recognition and respect accorded to other governments.

2. When undertaking to formulate and implement policies that directly affect Indian tribes and their members, the State and its agencies must recognize the unique government-to-government relationship between the State and Indian tribes and whenever feasible consult with the governments of the affected Indian tribe or tribes regarding a State action or proposed action anticipated to directly affect an Indian tribe.

3. In instances where the State assumes control over formerly federal programs, state agencies shall consider unique tribal needs and endeavor to ensure that tribal interests are not overlooked. Where a federal program provided the tribes the option of controlling programs, functions, services and activities, the state agency should continue the option if possible. If so requested by one or more tribes, the agency shall review the feasibility of transferring control over a program to one or more tribes if the program functions, services and activities are intended to directly benefit tribes. Such a study shall not be performed on more than a biennial basis. The results of the feasibility study shall be reported by the agency to the Governor.

4. State agencies and persons employed by State agencies shall work cooperatively to accomplish the goals of this order and at all times act in a manner consistent with this order.

Nothing in this order shall require state agencies to violate or ignore any laws, rules, directives or other legal requirements or obligations imposed by state or federal law, or set forth in agreements or compacts entered into one or more Indian Tribes and the state or one or more of its agencies.

This order shall be reviewed by the Governor, in consultation with his staff and Indian tribal officials, every two years in order to

assess its effectiveness, implementation and reasonableness, and to identify any areas of concern.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this ____ day of _____, 2002.

JESSE VENTURA,

Governor

Filed According to Law:

MARY KIFFMEYER

Secretary of State

idmsstp:613682_1

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-09

Issued October 7, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-09 PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM REGULATIONS TO MOTOR CARRIERS AND DRIVERS OPERATING IN MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, drought conditions exist in South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to transport hay and straw to affected areas to provide feed for livestock.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that the Commissioner of Transportation waive the following statutory requirements and issue over-dimension transportation permits to hay and straw haulers:

1.Minnesota Statutes 2001, Section 221.021. Any person while engaged in the transportation of hay and straw to victims of the drought shall be exempt from applying for operating authority.

2.Minnesota Statutes 2001, Section 221.60, subdivision 1(2) and (3). Interstate carriers while engaged in the transportation of hay and straw to the victims of drought shall be exempt from registering with the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation.

3.Minnesota Statues 2001, Section 169.862. All carriers while engaged in the transportation of hay and straw to the victims of the drought may operate on the interstate highway system. The following statutory provisions shall remain in

effect:

- The maximum available width of loaded vehicles is 11 = feet;
- Vehicles must operate only from sunrise to sunset;
- There shall be no movement in the Twin City Metropolitan Area between the hours 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Minneapolis/St. Paul (TWIN CITIES) Metropolitan Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties;
- Vehicles must operate on pavement that is at least 24 feet wide;
- Vehicles must be equipped with mirrors so that drivers are able to have a clear view of the highway at least 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle;
- Vehicles must display red, orange or yellow flags, 18 inches square, as markers at the front and rear and on both sides of the load.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2001, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., CST, December 24, 2002.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 7th day of October, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-08

Issued July 5, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-08 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, strong winds have fed the growth of a wildfire in the Grand Portage State Forest in Northeastern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the fast-moving, wind-driven fire is threatening seasonal homes; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has requested fire suppression assets from the Minnesota National Guard;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about July 4, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to assist and support wildfire suppression throughout the State of Minnesota.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 5th day of July, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER

Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-07

Issued June 24, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-07 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA COUNTIES

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, heavy rains have saturated Northwest Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, major overland flooding is threatening several counties in Northwest Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten to inflict widespread and considerable damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in Northwest Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about June 23, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Polk, and Roseau counties from flooding.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49,

subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 24th day of June, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-06

Issued June 11, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-06
DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, the torrential rain that fell on June 9-10, 2002 has resulted in flooding which is closing roads, overwhelming storm sewer systems, destroying crops and inundating homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, straight-line and/or tornadic winds on June 9, 2002 resulted in sizable damage to both public and private property; and

WHEREAS, these events have inflicted widespread and extensive damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in the counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau; and

WHEREAS, adjacent counties in the State are potentially subject to the same dangerous flooding conditions; and

WHEREAS, the resources of local and county government have been exhausted in responding to the flooding emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

A State of Emergency exists in the State of Minnesota and do:

- Direct the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management to continue the activation of the Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan, coordinate damage assessment, and determine the need for supplementary disaster aid;

- Direct all state agencies to provide assistance that is necessary to help local units of government respond to and recover from this emergency.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded by property authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 11th day of June, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-05

Issued June 11, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-05
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA COUNTIES

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, heavy rains have saturated Northwest Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, major overland flooding is threatening several counties in Northwest Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten to inflict widespread and considerable damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in Northwest Minnesota;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about

June 11, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Beltrami, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties from flooding.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 11th day of June, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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Click here for Executive order 02-05
issued June 11, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-04

Issued June 10, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-04 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO NORMAN COUNTY

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, heavy rains have saturated Northwest Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, major overland flooding is threatening Norman County; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten to inflict widespread and considerable damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in the vicinity of Norman County;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about

June 9, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Norman County from flooding.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 10th day of June, 2002.

_____

MAE SCHUNK
Lieutenant Governor
For Governor Jesse Ventura

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-03

Issued June 5, 2002

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-03 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, due to high risk conditions such as tinder dry fuel load and gusting winds, numerous wildfires are burning throughout portions of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has requested fire suppression assets from the Minnesota National Guard;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about May 31, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to assist and support wildfire suppression throughout the State of Minnesota.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such

date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 5th day of June, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-02

Issued April 18, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-02
PROVIDING FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES TO STATE AGENCIES UNDER THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ACT OF 1965 (P.L. 94-422); RESCINDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 93-13

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, proper administration of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, requires the assignment of specific duties to various state agencies; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 2001, First Special Session, [Chap. 2], Section 140, [116P.14] [Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund] designates the Department of Natural Resources as the state agency to apply for, receive, accept and disburse federal funds from this grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Department of Natural Resources be designated the state agency to administer the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program in Minnesota.

2.The Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget Services in the Department of Natural Resources shall serve as the state liaison officer and shall be ultimately responsible for overall administration and compliance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Minnesota. The Manager of the Grants Unit in the Department of Natural Resource's Office of Management and Budget Services shall serve as the alternate liaison officer and shall assist the state liaison officer in carrying out the responsibilities of

this program. In the absence of the state liaison officer, the Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Natural Resources shall have authority to sign project agreements and amendments. Responsibility for this program shall include:

a. Implementing an ongoing statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning process that includes an assessment of outdoor recreation in Minnesota, a plan for addressing outdoor recreation issues, and a process for allocating federal grant funds to acquire and develop projects that provide outdoor recreation;

b. Ensuring compliance by all grant recipients with state laws and regulations and with federal requirements stated in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Manual;

c. Managing projects by preparing and submitting applications, amendments and billings, inspecting projects to ensure proper completion, operation and maintenance, and other functions necessary for proper program administration and management;

d. Reporting on activities of the grant program as required by federal and state regulations; and

e. Cooperating with the National Park Service in activities that further proper administration of this grant program in Minnesota.

Executive Order 93-13 is rescinded.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2001, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2001, Section 4.035 subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 18th day of April 2002

_____

Jesse Ventura
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

Mary Kiffmeyer
Secretary of State



Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-01

Issued March 8, 2002

EXECUTIVE ORDER 02-01
PROVIDING FOR PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DRILL AND EXERCISE

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, has requested assistance in providing personnel and equipment to support the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant Drill and Exercise; and

WHEREAS, adequate personnel and equipment are not available from the Department of Public Safety, other participating agencies, Goodhue and Dakota Counties of Minnesota, and other local authorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to active duty as needed during the period March 14, 2002 to May 15, 2002, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State needed by the Department of Public Safety and Goodhue and Dakota Counties to successfully complete the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant Drill and Exercise.

2.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall be paid by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, as provided by an interdepartmental agreement dated August 7, 1995.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order shall be effective March 14, 2002 through May 15, 2002.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 8th day of March, 2002.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-11

Issued October 1, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-11 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS IN STATE REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS, VETERANS HOMES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCES OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, the Department of Employee Relations and the Bureau of Mediation Services have received notices issued by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees ("AFSCME") and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees ("MAPE") stating an intent to strike as of an unspecified date or dates; and

WHEREAS, AFSCME and MAPE have notified the Department of Employee Relations and Bureau of Mediation Services that the current contracts have expired and that the unions do not wish to continue the existing contracts after 6:00 a.m. October 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the AFSCME and MAPE employees commenced their strike at 6:00 a.m. October 1, 2001, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the strike, certain State regional treatment centers, veterans homes and nursing homes, schools, community-based residences and other state-operated facilities face a critical shortage of direct care personnel to ensure the health and safety of the vulnerable citizens in the care of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced direct care personnel provide essential life, safety and healthcare to the persons served at such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the absence of direct care personnel presents an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the persons served at the referenced facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Chairman of the Minnesota Veterans Home Board and other state agencies, boards, commissions and entities have prepared strike response plans indicating their essential service and personnel needs to provide essential life, safety and health care to the persons served at the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations have reviewed and approved such strike response plans; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations have requested assistance from the Governor to implement the strike response plans to ensure provision of essential care and services to the persons served by the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, temporary assignment of State of Minnesota employees and the deployment of personnel from the Minnesota National Guard will be needed to avoid a breakdown in the essential care of patients in the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, the training of personnel to carry out this function has been undertaken in due course to ensure proper health care, safety and welfare for the patients in the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The strike response plans of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Veterans Home Board and other state agencies, boards, commissions and entities approved by the Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations be implemented to provide essential life, safety and health care to the persons served by the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike.

2.State agencies and State employees will cooperate and assist the Minnesota Departments of Administration and Employee Relations in the implementation of the State of Minnesota Strike Contingency Plan and the strike contingency response plans approved by the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations.

3.Pursuant to M.S. '12.21, Subd. 3(10), AFSCME bargaining unit employees who work during this emergency, shall be compensated consistent with salary schedules, salary grids, progression provisions and equipment differential provisions of the Agreement between the Minnesota State Employees Union, AFSCME, Council No. 6, AFL-CIO and the State of Minnesota in effect prior to its cancellation at 6:00 a.m. on October 1, 2001. All other terms and conditions of employment for such employees shall be as provided in the Commissioner's Plan established pursuant to M.S. '43A.18, Subd. 2.

4.Pursuant to M.S. '12.21, Subd. 3(10), for MAPE bargaining unit employees who work during this emergency, shall be compensated consistent with salary schedules, salary grids and progression provisions of the Agreement between the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees and the State of Minnesota in effect prior to its cancellation at 6:00 a.m. on October 1, 2001. All other terms and conditions of employment for such employees shall be as provided in the Commissioner's Plan established pursuant to M.S. '43A.18, Subd. 2.

5.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty, on or after September 30, 2001 such elements of the military forces of the State, as required, for the purpose of providing for security, and for essential life, safety and health care to the persons served at the above referenced facilities at the time of any strike.

6.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease, or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

7.The cost of training, subsistence, transportation, fuel,

pay and allowances of said military personnel shall be defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for generally and in particular in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, Subd. 1; 192.52, and 192.54.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, Subd. 2, this Order is effective September 30, 2001 and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2000 section 4.035, Subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 30th day of September, 2001.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-10

Issued August 20, 2001

EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-10
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS IN
STATE REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS, VETERANS
HOMES, AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENCES
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, due to circumstances of current negotiations, and the potential for a strike by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees ("AFSCME") and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees ("MAPE") certain state regional treatment centers, veterans homes, and community-based residences face a critical shortage of direct care personnel to ensure the health and safety of the vulnerable citizens in the care of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the above-referenced direct care personnel provide essential life, safety and healthcare to the persons served by the above referenced facilities; and

WHEREAS, the absence of direct care personnel presents an immediate threat to the health, welfare and safety of the persons served by the referenced facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Chairman of the Minnesota Veterans Home Board have requested assistance from the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations in obtaining personnel to provide essential life, safety and health care to the persons served by the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations have requested assistance from the Governor to ensure provision of essential care and services to the persons served by the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, temporary assignment of State of Minnesota employees and the deployment of personnel from the Minnesota National Guard will be needed to avoid a breakdown in the essential care of patients in the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike; and

WHEREAS, the training of personnel to carry out this function must be undertaken in due course to ensure proper health care, safety and welfare for the patients in the above referenced facilities in the event of a strike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Veterans Home Board immediately prepare and submit for approval by the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations a strike response plan indicating their essential service and personnel needs for the care and treatment of patients and residents of the above referenced facilities of the State of Minnesota, and immediately implement appropriate training programs for personnel temporarily assigned or deployed pursuant to this Order, for the purpose of assuring an appropriate level of care and treatment of such individuals.

2.State agencies and State employees will cooperate and assist the Minnesota Departments of Administration and Employee Relations in the implementation of the State of Minnesota Strike Contingency Plan and agency strike contingency plans approved by the Minnesota Commissioners of Administration and Employee Relations.

3.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty, on or after September 6, 2001 such elements of the military forces of the State, as required, for the purpose of receiving the necessary advance training pursuant to the strike contingency plans implemented by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Veteran's Home Board to provide for the safety and the essential direct care and treatment of such individuals in the custodial care of the State of Minnesota and the above referenced institutions.

4.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease, or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

5.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said military personnel shall be defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for generally and in particular in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.52, and 192.54.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2000 section 4.035, subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this 20th day of August, 2001.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION FOR SPECIAL SESSION 2001

WHEREAS: The Eighty-Second Legislature adjourned without enacting essential legislation to provide for the orderly financial management of state government creating a threat to the health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: The time permitted by law for passage of such legislation during the 2001 session for the Legislature has expired, and an extraordinary occasion as envisioned by Article IV, Section 12 of the Minnesota Constitution is thereby created; and

WHEREAS: The people of Minnesota are best served by avoidance of a government shutdown and a prompt conclusion of legislative business, with a limited agenda and, to every extent possible, prior agreement on laws to be enacted.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JESSE VENTURA, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby summon you, members of the Legislature, to convene in Special Session on Monday, June 11, 2001, at 8:00 a.m. at the State Capitol in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 7th day of June in the year two thousand and one, and of the State the one hundred forty-third.

Jesse Ventura
GOVERNOR

Mary Kiffmeyer
SECRETARY OF STATE

PROCLAMATION FOR SPECIAL SESSION 2001

Whereas: The Eighty-Second Legislature adjourned without

enacting essential legislation to provide for the orderly financial management of state government creating a threat to the health, well-being and safety of the citizens of Minnesota; and

Whereas: The time permitted by law for passage of such legislation during the 2001 session for the Legislature has expired, and an extraordinary occasion as envisioned by Article IV, Section 12 of the Minnesota Constitution is thereby created; and

Whereas: The people of Minnesota are best served by avoidance of a government shutdown and a prompt conclusion of legislative business, with a limited agenda and, to every extent possible, prior agreement on laws to be enacted.

Now Therefore, I, Jesse Ventura, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby summon you, members of the Legislature, to convene in Special Session on Monday, June 11, 2001, at 8:00 a.m. at the State Capitol in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-06

Issued May 4, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-06
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
THE FREEBORN COUNTY SHERIFF

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, during the evening of May 1, 2001, a tornado touched down near the southeastern city of Glenville, and

WHEREAS, the tornado, accompanied by heavy rain, hail and lightening, downed power lines, caused a gas leak and resulted in substantial damage to homes, farms and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the city and county do not have adequate local resources for providing security, traffic control and power generation; and

WHEREAS, the Freeborn County sheriff requests assistance in providing security, traffic control and power generation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about May 1, 2001, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required, and for such period of time as necessary to assist with security, traffic control, and power generation in the tornado-damaged area.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the

mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this fourth day of May, 2001.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-05

Issued April 30, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-05
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Emergency Executive Order:

WHEREAS, due to high-risk conditions and gusting winds, numerous wildfires are burning throughout northern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires are in an area extending from Anoka County to Bemidji; and;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has requested aviation support from the Minnesota National Guard.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about April 28, 2001, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required and for such period of time as necessary to assist and support wildfire suppression throughout northern Minnesota.

2.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

3.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this

Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this thirtieth day of April, 2001.

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

MARY KIFFMEYER

Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-04

Issued April 17, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-04 PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, major overland flooding is threatening the Mississippi River and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten to inflict widespread and considerable damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in the vicinity of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.State agencies be authorized to provide assistance to local jurisdictions as coordinated through the State Emergency Operations Center.

2.The Division of Emergency Management continue to implement the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

3.Kevin Leuer, Director of Emergency Management, be appointed as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for coordination of the flood-fighting operations in Minnesota.

4.The Director of the Division of Emergency Management acting as the GAR is authorized to request assistance from and coordinate with the federal government to enhance the flood-fighting activity in Minnesota.

5.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about April 7, 2001, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required, and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Minnesota from spring flooding.

6.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

7.The cost of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this seventeenth day of April, 2001.

_____

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

_____

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-03

PROVIDING FOR STATE RESPONSE TO FLOODING IN THE RED RIVER AND MINNESOTA RIVER BASINS

Issued April 10, 2001

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-03
PROVIDING FOR ASSISTANCE TO
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, major overland flooding is threatening Minnesota in the Red River and Minnesota River Basins, and

WHEREAS, these conditions threaten to inflict widespread and considerable damage to the public infrastructure as well as to homes, farms, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, there is a threat to public safety for citizens in the Red River and Minnesota River Basins.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

1.State agencies be authorized to provide assistance to local jurisdictions as coordinated through the State Emergency Operations Center.

2.The Division of Emergency Management continue to implement the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

3.Kevin Leuer, Director of the Division of Emergency Management, be appointed as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) for coordination of the flood-fighting operations in Minnesota.

4.The Director of the Division of Emergency Management

acting as the GAR is authorized to request assistance from and coordinate with the federal government to enhance the flood-fighting activity in Minnesota.

5.The Adjutant General of Minnesota order to state active duty on or about April 7, 2001, in the service of the State, such personnel and equipment of the military forces of the State as required, and for such period of time as necessary to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Minnesota from spring flooding.

6.The Adjutant General is authorized to purchase, lease or contract goods or services necessary to accomplish the mission.

7.The costs of subsistence, transportation, fuel, pay and allowances of said individuals shall by defrayed from the general fund of the State, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes 2000, Sections 192.49, subd. 1; 192.51 and 192.52.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, Section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such date as elements of the military forces of the State are no longer required or the flooding conditions no longer pose a threat to life and property.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this tenth day of April, 2001.

JESSE VENTURA

Filed According to Law: Governor

MARY KIFFMEYER

Secretary of State

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-01

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNOR'S STATE CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota will celebrate the centennial of the opening of the State Capitol Building in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the State Capitol is Minnesota's premier example of classical architecture designed by architect Cass Gilbert as the central location for state government operations and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the State Capitol Building has undergone significant structural improvements to the exterior and the state has begun historic interior restoration over the past decade and a half; and;

WHEREAS, the State Capitol Building, according to the *1988 Minnesota State Capitol Comprehensive Preservation Plan and Implementation Strategy,* needs to undergo further major renovation, rehabilitation, and restoration in order to complete the historic restoration; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to bring the State Capitol Building up to date, modernize its infrastructure, comply with life safety codes, provide needed technological capabilities, and preserve it for future generations; and

WHEREAS, other state capitols throughout the country are undergoing major restoration efforts at this time; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota must ensure that restoration of the State Capitol Building and the surrounding grounds are appropriately planned in conjunction with the 2005 celebration and that a long-term plan is developed for the future preservation and use of the Capitol.

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order:

The establishment of the Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission.

1.The main purposes of the Commission are to guide:

Development of plans for the centennial celebration of the Capitol in 2005, and advocacy for private funds for improvements to the Capitol and its grounds, and for its centennial celebration.

2.The Commission shall be composed of 15 members with 11 members appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall consist of a collaboration of civic leaders from both the public and private sector, the majority of whom shall be of the private sector. The Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Minnesota State Senate and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives are each requested to appoint one member of the Legislature to serve on the Commission. The chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall be the convener of the Commission.

3.The Commission shall participate with Admin and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) in identifying which historically appropriate improvements to the public and ceremonial spaces of the Capitol can be completed prior to 2005 in order to allow for the year's celebrations to proceed. Any such improvements will be consistent with the predesign for the State Capitol to be completed in 2001 under the auspices of the State Capitol Predesign Advisory Group. Any such improvements also shall be consistent with the original architectural design of the Capitol.

4.The Commission shall provide leadership for obtaining private funds in order to implement plans for the Capitol's restoration and centennial celebration.

5.The Department of Administration and the CAAPB shall provide staff and consultant support and the Commission shall have the ability to request staff support from other agencies of state government, as needed, for the execution of the responsibilities of the Commission.

6.State agencies shall cooperate with the Commission by providing relevant information for the Commission's review and in the implementation of the recommendations.

7.The Commission shall develop a fundraising program to secure donations from the private sector to help fund the restoration of the State Capitol Building and for the Capitol's centennial celebration.

The Commission shall submit periodic progress reports to the Governor.

This Order shall be reviewed by the Governor, in consultation with the affected agency or agencies, every two years in order to assess its reasonableness and need.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 4.035, subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this twenty-third day of March, 2001.

JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:

MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

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Governor Ventura talking points on Health Care Costs and Quality Task Force

Good morning. We are here to announce the formation of a **joint task force on health care costs and quality.**

This task force will be a partnership between my Administration and the Legislature, created to provide a thoughtful forum to deal with the huge challenges facing Minnesota's health care system.

Why are we doing this now?

The answer is easy.

Health care costs continue to rise at alarming rates

premiums are skyrocketing,

consumers are too often left out of decisions, and

there's no public consensus about what we want from our health care system and what we're willing to pay for.

At the same time, our economy is in flux, and health care costs are putting more and more pressure on our pocketbooks and budgets.

Although Minnesota is known for its leadership in health care, it's clear that our current system simply cannot take us into the future.

We need to reinstate Minnesota's leadership in health care by taking a long-term, thoughtful approach to solutions for the health care dilemma.

Certainly, my Administration and the Legislature have made important but limited progress in health care.

We have moved forward on expanding coverage for kids, closing racial and ethnic health status gaps, and investing in prevention

strategies that can help to reduce future costs. We also started a healthy debate about regulatory reform and the need for more quality measurement.

While this is important progress, deeper reform of the system itself needs to happen.

It's clear that alone, we don't have all of the answers.

By joining together with the Legislature, and asking all stakeholders to contribute to solutions, I believe we can take the next steps and create some long-term, thoughtful proposals.

To get that outside input, I suggest that the Joint Task Force create a Community Advisory Group composed of policy leaders, providers, labor leaders, business owners and consumers.

This group will collect solutions and bring good ideas from some of Minnesota's experts to the Joint Task Force.

Former Senator Dave Durenberger, who heads the National Institute of Health Policy, is one of these experts. We need his and other experts' ideas on this issue.

But I'm not looking for quick fixes or simple answers.

These huge questions cannot be answered in time for this year's budget or next year's election. This is a long-term strategy, focused on meeting Minnesota's needs for years to come.

After all, quick fixes aren't the Minnesota way.

Minnesota has a tradition of solving big problems by taking a thoughtful, long-term approach.

Knee-jerk reactions won't get us anywhere, especially when it comes to a complicated health care system so important to our state.

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PUBLIC SAFETY DOMESTIC TERRORISM INITIATIVES

1) IDENTIFY AND IMMOBILIZE TERRORISTS

A) Expand Background Checks

❑Expand background checks for a number of key occupations, including commercial drivers that handle hazardous materials.

B) Toughen Scrutiny of ID Documents

❑Amend rules so that the length of a Minnesota ID or DL coincides with the length of a visa (student, work or other).

❑Allow law enforcement easy access to Minnesota DL or ID photos.

C) Update Wire-Tap Authority

❑Update the law to include all forms of communication (rights for citizens remain protected, change incorporates latest technology).

D) Limit Public Disclosure of Sensitive Information

❑Expand the definition of security

information to include data which an agency reasonably believes could assist in the planning of an act of terrorism (examples include the routes of pipelines, blueprints of public buildings, response plans and the locations of hazardous material storage facilities).

E) Improve Ability to Share Intelligence Information

- ❑Provides the authority to share intelligence information between government agencies, similar to the information exchange permitted in the gang statutes.

F) Create Ability to Freeze Assets

- ❑Allows a court to direct a financial institution to freeze some or all of funds or assets possessed by an individual charged

with a crime linked to terrorist activities.

2) TOUGHER PENALTIES

A) Tighten Trespass Laws at Critical Facilities

- ❑Creates the ability to arrest and detain anyone trespassing on all utility plants, including nuclear plants (currently, Minnesota is only one of two states that require a warning prior to action, even if no trespassing is posted).

B) Expand Tampering Laws for Hazardous Materials

- ❑Makes it a crime to tamper with the equipment used in the transport of hazardous materials with intent to commit an act of terrorism (expansion of law created last year related to the transport of anhydrous ammonia).

C) Toughen Penalties for Acts Related to Terrorism

- ❑Defines terrorist act as a crime of violence.
- ❑Makes it a crime to assist a person knowingly engaged in terrorist activities.
- ❑Includes penalties for hoaxes.

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January 31, 2002

Domestic Security Spending Proposal

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Ventura Administration Domestic Terrorism Preparedness and Response

Administration Recommendations - Funding Summary
($ in thousands)

	FY02-03	FY 04-05
Health	**3,695**	**4,694**
Public Safety	**2,041**	**2,410**
Agriculture/Animal Health	**1,140**	**2,978**
Total	**6,876**	**10,082**

Highlights of Recommendations:

Planning: $2.76 million in 2002-03 and $2.14 in 2004-05 to coordinate terrorism assessment and planning activities, develop and implement data management systems of resources for quick emergency response, and integrate public health response strategies into local emergency response plans.

Early Detection: $798 K in 2002-03 and $4.33 million in 2004-05 to the Departments of Health and Agriculture for staff and special equipment to develop safe testing methods, rapidly produce test results and provide analysis of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) agents.

Training: $795 K in 2002-03 and $650 K in 2004-05 for Department of Health (MDH) staff to coordinate training and outbreak response; WMD training for local and state agency responders, bomb squads and hazardous materials teams; training for food safety and agriculture security personnel.

Response: $2.52 million in 2002-03 and $2.96 million in 2004-05 for equipment upgrades, additional staff, contracts for specialty

response capabilities, enhanced Capitol security, expanded use of new technology for coordinated communication, and public information tools.

- Expands chemical assessment team (CAT) role by adding one person per team (from 3 to 4 people) and requiring these teams to do assessment and mitigation.

- Includes $1.12 million in 2002-03 and $1.17 million in 2004-05 for monitored access in each Capitol complex building, additional Capitol security staff, extended hours for certain sites to allow full-day coverage, card readers and expanded camera coverage of the Capitol area.

- Provides $750 K for MDH in each biennium for unbroken access (24/7) to the public health network and other responders.

NOTE: Just over $9.2 million in federal funds are currently available for WMD response in Minnesota through DOJ, FEMA, DOT, PHS/OEP and the CDC.

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January 31, 2002

DOMESTIC SECURITY POLICY PROPOSALS

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Go to Domestic Spending Proposal

Policy Proposals

We must strengthen Minnesota's public health and safety networks to more effectively respond to potential terrorist acts. The following policy initiatives are designed to improve the state's readiness to prepare and respond to these threats.

Strengthening Emergency Authority

Clarifying authorities and responsibilities related to peacetime emergencies and specifying the chain of command for declaring and managing public health emergencies.

Protecting People

- Update our quarantine law to isolate infected ill people or people exposed to biological agents to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

- Expand the embargo authority to limit the movement of food or consumer commodities in a geographic area during an emergency.

- Establish authority to require medical testing to assess and contain public health emergencies.

Managing Resources

- Establish authority to control health facilities and direct resources during emergencies, and manage supply and distribution of vaccines and medicines.

- Establish authority to waive or suspend certain statutes, rules and regulations to expedite emergency response.

Sharing Information

- Make private health data available to identify possible terrorism perpetrators, investigate public health and safety threats, and protect emergency responders and the public.

- Authorize law enforcement agencies to share criminal investigative data with the commissioner of health, board of animal health and the commissioner of agriculture under certain circumstances.

- Expand security information to include data used to plan an act of terrorism, and allow agencies to share this data with other agencies if access will aid public health, promote public safety, or assist law enforcement.

Identifying and Immobilizing Terrorists

Tightening laws to close loopholes that give terrorists access to money, identification and information.

- Expand background checks to include all applicants for hazardous materials endorsements.

- Clarify procedures for the interception of terrorist communications, including wire tapping and electronic communication interception.

- Expand the list of crimes that permit the "freezing" of an individual's assets to include terrorist activities.

- Expand law enforcement access to Minnesota drivers' licenses and identification cards photos.

- Limit the term of drivers' license or identification card to a length consistent with an individual's lawful stay in the country.

- Prohibit accepting a drivers' license or identification card from another state without a primary document, unless the state's documentation standard is as strict or stricter than Minnesota's current standard.

- Expand security information to include data used to plan an act of terrorism.

Providing Tougher Penalties

Holding terrorists accountable for their actions.

- Expand penalties for trespassing on property containing a utility or pipeline.

- Create felony penalties for the act of tampering with equipment which stores or transports hazardous materials.

- Expand murder in the first degree to include terrorist acts that cause death.

- Create the crime of terrorism, and make it a crime for an individual to threaten the use of biological agents, toxic chemicals or toxins.

- Make it a crime to use or possess any biological agent, toxic chemical or toxins for the purpose of hurting an individual or damaging their property, and establishes penalties.

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Ventura Administration Domestic Security Package

Ensuring Public Health and Safety for Minnesota

	FY '02–'05
Planning	$ 4.905 M
Identification/Detection	5.132
Training	1.445
Response	5.476
Total	$16.958 M

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, December 12, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ARONSON TO SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Terrence Aronson to a Sixth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Virginia in St. Louis County. The opening occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Robert Berger on September 18, 2001. Six people applied for this vacancy.

Aronson is a partner in the Virginia law firm of Colosimo, Patchin, Aronson, Kearney, Lindell and Brunfelt. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1988. He was a staff attorney for Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota in Virginia from 1982 to 1988, in private practice in Minneapolis from 1977 to 1982, staff counsel for H.I.R.E.D. (Helping Industry Resolve Employment Disabilities) from 1976 to 1977 and a staff attorney for the Urban Coalition in Minneapolis from 1974 to 1976. Aronson earned his juris doctorate degree from St. Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. John's University in Collegeville in 1970.

"Terry has been practicing law in Virginia for nearly 20 years. His background in family and juvenile law will be a good fit on a bench that is seeing a growing number of cases in this area," Governor Ventura said. "In addition, he has been active through community service activities in trying to help people during difficult times in their lives. He will take this sense of caring with him to the bench."

Aronson is on the Legal Aid Board of Directors, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, and the Twelfth Step House, of which is he board chair. He has been named a "Superlawyer" by *Minnesota Law and Politics*, and received the Range Women's Advocates Recognition Award. He has also been on the YMCA Board of Directors, an incorporator for Habitat for Humanity, and a United Way presentation instructor.

Aronson, 54, was born in Chisholm, and resides in Virginia with his wife, Julie. He has two stepchildren, Andrew Burns, 20, and Alex Burns, 17.

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For immediate release:
Monday, December 10, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Fourth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Hennepin County. The vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Roberta Levy on January 7, 2002. The finalists are Regina Chu, Mel Dickstein and Katherian Roe.

Chu, Minneapolis, is an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis. She has been a solo practitioner since 1997. She was a partner in the law firm of Wilson and Chu in Minneapolis from 1993 through 1996, a shareholder in the Minneapolis law firm of Bassford, Lockhart, Truesdell and Briggs from 1985 to 1993, a special assistant attorney general in the Minnesota Attorney General's office from 1981 through 1984 and a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Douglas Amdahl from 1980 to 1981. Chu earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1980 and her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1975.

Dickstein, Minneapolis, is a partner in the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in Minneapolis. He has been a partner with the firm since 1982 and an associate attorney since 1978. Dickstein was an assistant United States attorney in Minneapolis from 1974 to 1978. Dickstein earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1969.

Roe, Robbinsdale, is a senior litigator and chief of training for the Office of the Federal Defender in Minneapolis, a position she has held since 2000. She has been an assistant federal defender since 1989. Roe was an attorney and teaching fellow at Georgetown

University Law Center in Washington, D.C. from 1987 to 1989, and a staff attorney and fellow with the Wisconsin Judicare Indian Law Program in Wausau from 1984 to 1987. Roe earned her LL.M. Trial Advocacy degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992, her juris doctorate degree from Albany Law School of Union University in Albany, New York in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from State University of New York at Albany in 1981.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 68 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 30, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Rosanne Nathanson, George Stephenson and Steven Wheeler to the Second Judicial District trial court bench in Ramsey County. Eighty-nine people applied for these three vacancies.

Nathanson is of counsel to the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard in Minneapolis. She has been an attorney with the firm since 1988. She was an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Pepin, Dayton, Herman and Graham from 1987 to 1988 and an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Trawick and Smith from 1980 to 1987. Nathanson earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1980 and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1968.

"Rosanne's law practice is primarily in the field of family law, a background that is under-represented on the bench in Ramsey County," Governor Ventura said. "Her warm and compassionate style will be a calming presence to those who appear before her in court."

Nathanson is a member of the American, Minnesota, Hennepin and Ramsey County Bar Associations. She in on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State Bar Foundation and has co-chaired numerous committees, including the Hennepin County Bar Association Ethics Committee and Family Law Section. She is a board member of the United Jewish Fund and Council the Melpomene Institute, and has served as a board member on the Shalom Community Alliance and Shalom Foundation, and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Nathanson fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable John Connolly, whose retirement is effective on

February 28, 2002. Nathanson, 55, was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and lives in St. Paul.

Stephenson is the Deputy City Attorney and chief prosecutor for the city of St. Paul. He has been in the St. Paul City Attorney's office since 1998. Stephenson was an assistant Plymouth City Attorney with the Eagan law firm of Campbell, Knudsen from 1995 to 1998, an associate attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Walling and Berg from 1990 to 1993, an assistant federal defender from 1988 to 1990, an assistant Ramsey County Attorney from 1987 to 1988 and an assistant St. Paul City Attorney from 1986 to 1987. Stephenson earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1985 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary's University in Winona in 1980.

"George's varied background in the practice of law has prepared him for this position," Governor Ventura said. "In addition, he is a role model in the community, especially with inner-city youth. I know that he will continue to be a positive influence in the Ramsey County community as a judge."

Stephenson is a member of the Frogtown-Summit/University Peacekeeping and Sentencing Circle and a member and organizer of the Hmong Community Peacekeeping and Sentencing Circle. He also wrote and implemented the Frogtown-Summit/University Community Prosecutor Program. Since 1990, Stephenson has also been president of GEOmetric Design, Inc., a company that manufacturers model kits of horror, science fiction and fantasy film characters. Through this venture that he coordinates activities for inner-city youth.

Stephenson fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Lawrence Cohen, whose retirement is effective on January 7, 2002. Stephenson, 43, was born in Chicago, and lives in Maplewood with his wife, Nancy, and their three children, David, 8, Monica, 6, and Leigh, 4.

Wheeler is the Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, a position he has held since 1991. He held positions of vice president and corporate counsel, deputy general counsel, senior labor relations and labor relations attorney with Northwest Airlines in Eagan from 1973 to 1991 and was an attorney with the St. Paul law firm now known as Murnane, Conlin, White and Brandt from 1970 to 1973. Wheeler earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1970 and his bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul

in 1966.

"Steve has been a tremendously effective leader of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, transforming that court into a team that works together and issues fair, timely, and consistent opinions," Governor Ventura said. "He will bring that collegiality and work ethic with him to the Ramsey County bench."

Wheeler is President-elect of the Warren E. Burger Inn of Court, is a member of the American, Federal, Minnesota, Hennepin and Ramsey County Bar Associations, has been an adjunct professor at Hamline University School of Law, and a lecturer for numerous workers' compensation programs. He is also a Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem, vice-chair of the American Red Cross St. Paul Chapter Board of Directors, and the Fairway Foundation, a golf program for inner-city youth. Wheeler has also been active in community youth athletic programs and was a volunteer judge for the YMCA Youth in Government Program.

Wheeler fills the vacancy created by the resignation of the Honorable Charles Flinn, Jr., whose resignation is effective on January 7, 2002. Wheeler, 57, was born in Banana River, Florida and lives in St. Paul. He has two grown children, Heidi, 32, and Benjamin, 31.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, November 20, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced six finalists for three Second Judicial District trial court bench vacancies in Ramsey County. Two vacancies will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Lawrence Cohen and the resignation of the Honorable Charles Flinn, Jr., effective on January 7, 2002. The third vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable John Connolly on February 28, 2002. The finalists are Manuel Cervantes, Thomas Fabel, Terrence Fleming, Rosanne Nathanson, George Stephenson and Steven Wheeler.

Cervantes, St. Paul, is a Second Judicial District court referee, a position he has held since 1992. He was a judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals from 1986 to 1992, an assistant St. Paul City Attorney in 1986, a labor-management attorney for the American Federation of Government Employees in Bloomington from 1981 to 1985 and a federal housing management specialist with the United States Department of Urban Development in Minneapolis from 1980 to 1981. Cervantes earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1980, a fellowship certificate from the Hubert H. Humphrey Graduate School of Public Policy in 1986 and his bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1974.

Fabel, Arden Hills, is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Lindquist and Vennum in St. Paul. He has been with the firm since 1987, except in 1998, when he was deputy mayor for the city of St. Paul. Fabel was deputy Minnesota Attorney General from 1973 to 1987 and a special assistant attorney general in the Minnesota Attorney General's office from 1971 to 1973. Fabel earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1971 and his bachelor of arts degree from Carleton

College in Northfield in 1968.

Fleming, St. Paul, is an attorney with the law firm of Lindquist and Vennum and its predecessor, Delaney and Solum, in Minneapolis, a position he has held since 1982. He was a law clerk for Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice C. Donald Peterson from 1981 to 1982. Fleming earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in 1978.

Nathanson, St. Paul, is of counsel to the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard in Minneapolis. She has been an attorney with the firm since 1988. She was an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Pepin, Dayton, Herman and Graham from 1987 to 1988 and an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Trawick and Smith from 1980 to 1987. Nathanson earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1980 and her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1968.

Stephenson, Maplewood, is the Deputy City Attorney and chief prosecutor for the city of St. Paul. He has been in the St. Paul City Attorney's office since 1998. Stephenson was an assistant Plymouth City Attorney with the Eagan law firm of Campbell, Knudsen from 1995 to 1998, an associate attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Walling and Berg from 1990 to 1993, an assistant federal defender from 1988 to 1990, an assistant Ramsey County Attorney from 1987 to 1988 and an assistant St. Paul City Attorney from 1986 to 1987. Since 1990, Stephenson has also been president of GEOmetric Design, Inc., a company that manufacturers model kits of horror, science fiction and fantasy film characters. Stephenson earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1985 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Mary's University in Winona in 1980.

Wheeler, St. Paul, is the Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, a position he has held since 1991. He held positions of vice president and corporate counsel, deputy general counsel, senior labor relations and labor relations attorney with Northwest Airlines in Eagan from 1973 to 1991 and was an attorney with the St. Paul law firm now known as Murnane, Conlin, White and Brandt from 1970 to 1973. Wheeler earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1970 and his bachelor of arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul in 1966.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 89 applications for these three judicial vacancies.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, November 15, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced two Fifth Judicial District court trial bench vacancies.

The first vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Terry Dempsey on February 28, 2002. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of the chambers of this judgeship for the city of St. James in Watonwan County.

The second vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable George Marshall on April 1, 2002. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Marshall in Lyon County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Fifth Judicial District may request an application for either or both vacancies by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for these vacancies must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation for either or both judgeships must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Thursday, December 6, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, November 13, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the first of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for Center City in Chisago County. The finalists are Melinda Elledge, Stephen Halsey, and Robert Rancourt.

Elledge, Stillwater, is an assistant Ramsey County attorney in St. Paul, a position she has held since 1978, except in 1999 when she participated in an exchange program with the Washington County Attorney's office. She was also an assistant St. Louis County attorney in Duluth from 1976 to 1978 and a law clerk in the state public defender's office from 1975 to 1976. Elledge earned her juris doctorate cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1976, her master of arts degree from the University of Missouri in 1971 and her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1970.

Halsey, Anoka, is an attorney in the law firm of Moore, Halsey and Eskola in Fridley, a position he has held since 1984. He was an attorney with the law firm of Peterson and Kalina in Columbia Heights from 1979 to 1984 and Babcock, Locher, Neilson and Mannella in Anoka from 1978 to 1979. Halsey earned his juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1978 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. Cloud State University in 1973.

Rancourt, Lindstrom, is a solo practitioner in Lindstrom. He has been a self-employed attorney since 1979. He was assistant vice president of commercial lending at the Casco Bank and Trust Company in Portland, Maine in 1979 and an associate counsel with

Space Center, Inc. in St. Paul from 1977 to 1979. Rancourt earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University Law School in St. Paul in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Miami in 1973.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 35 applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Friday, November 9, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS LEATHERDALE TO CHAIR THE COMMISSION ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE

(St. Paul) - Governor Ventura today announced the appointments of Doug Leatherdale, Jean Keffeler, Richard McNamara and Steve Minn to the Commission on University of Minnesota Excellence.

"I have great confidence in these appointments--these people get results," said Governor Ventura. "I'm especially pleased that Doug Leatherdale has agreed to be the chair. I really appreciate the fact that he's willing to jump right in so soon after retiring from St. Paul Companies.

"I've appointed two sitting Regents because I believe this commission duplicates what should be a principal role of the Board of Regents. Keffeler and McNamara serve on the Board's Educational Planning and Policy Committee," said Governor Ventura.

Leatherdale, Long Lake, is the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of St. Paul Companies. He retired after 29 successful years and over the last decade led the company into a premiere, worldwide specialty insurer. He is a graduate of the University of Manitoba. Leatherdale will serve as chair to the commission.

Keffeler, Minneapolis, has held a wide range of private and public sector positions, including senior vice president of the west region for HealthOne Corporation, vice president of finance and planning and chief financial officer of the data storage products division of Control Data Corporation, assistant vice president of corporate competitive strategies and regulatory and government relations for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, and deputy administrator and director of planning and development for Hennepin County. Keffeler has an honorary doctorate degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earned a Master of Science degree in

public administration and a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1969, and her Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1967.

McNamara, Edina, has been the chief executive officer (CEO) and owner of Activar, Inc. in Edina since 1968. Previously, he was in sales with Archer Daniels Midland in Minneapolis from 1959 to 1968. McNamara is a board member of the University of Minnesota Foundation, Dunwoody Institute, the Egan Companies and Woodland Container. McNamara earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1956.

Minn, Minneapolis, is president of Lupe Development and Associates. He has various experiences in the financial, marketing and governmental affairs in the private and public sector. Minn earned his Master of Management, cum laude at Northwestern University, in Evanston, Illinois and his Bachelor of Science, cum laude from Syracuse University, in Syracuse, New York.

The commission reviews the University's current nationally ranked areas of excellence and must report to the Legislature by July 1, 2002. In preparing its report on areas of excellence, the commission is encouraged to consider operation and capital financing needs, Minnesota economic needs, federal research priorities and opportunities for private financial support. The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the governor, Senate, House of Representatives and the Board of Regents and expires December 31, 2002.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, October 30, 2001

GOVERNOR VENTURA REAPPOINTS TOUSSAINT CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the reappointment of the Honorable Edward Toussaint, Jr. as Chief Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Judge Toussaint will serve another three-year term as chief judge expiring on October 31, 2004.

Toussaint has served as a judge of the Court of Appeals since March 1995 and as chief judge since April 1995. He was a district court judge in the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County from 1992 to 1995, a judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals from 1987 to 1992, a Workers' Compensation Judge from 1981 to 1987, a claims counsel for American Family Insurance Group from 1975 to 1981 as well as an attorney for N.E.W.S. Realty from 1978 to 1981 and a junior high school science teacher in Chicago from 1964 to 1975.

Toussaint earned his juris doctorate degree from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago in 1974 and his bachelor of science degree in education from Chicago State University in 1964. Toussaint, 60, was born in Louisiana and resides in St. Louis Park.

"Under Judge Toussaint's leadership, the Minnesota Court of Appeals has become a model court among appellate-level courts in the United States in its handling of cases," Governor Ventura said. "Judge Toussaint's use of technology and his personal style of working together as a court and communicating with each other has resulted in more consistent opinions from the court. I am comfortable that Judge Toussaint will continue to be an effective leader of the Court of Appeals during the next three years and maintain its status as one of the best-run appellate courts in the country."

The Minnesota Court of Appeals has jurisdiction of appeals from all final decisions of trial courts other than conciliation courts except for appeals in certain election contests, convictions of murder in the first degree, and appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and the Tax Court. The Court of Appeals consists of 16 judges; eight at-large seats and eight seats designated for each of the state's congressional districts. The governor designates one of the judges as chief judge.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 29, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Fourth Judicial District court trial bench vacancy in Hennepin County. The vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Roberta Levy on January 7, 2002.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Fourth Judicial District may request an application for this vacancy by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, November 19, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 22, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Glenda Moyers to the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

Moyers, of Mounds View, has spent twenty years at MnSCU as the supervisor of health occupations. She has thirty-years of experience in nursing, including teaching and actual practice in acute and long-term care settings. Moyer will complete a term expiring January 7, 2002.

The Board of Nursing is a regulatory agency of the State of Minnesota whose mission is to protect the public's health and safety by providing reasonable assurance that the persons who practice nursing are competent, ethical practitioners with the necessary knowledge and skills appropriate to their title and role. The board consists of 16 members.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 19, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO URBAN INITIATIVE BOARD

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointments Richard Antell and Hussein Samatar to the Urban Initiative Board.

Antell, of Minneapolis, is the executive director of the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the White Earth Reservation of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Antell will serve a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

Samatar, of Minneapolis, is a business banker at Wells Fargo. Samatar serves on many local community development corporation boards. He will serve a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

The nine-member board investigates and evaluates methods to enhance urban development, particularly methods relating to economic diversification through minority business enterprises and job creation for minority and other persons in low-income areas.

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For immediate release:
Friday, October 19, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Sixth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Virginia in St. Louis County which occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Robert Berger on September 18, 2001. The finalists are Terrence Aronson, Gordon Coldagelli and Mark Starr.

Aronson, Virginia, is a partner in the Virginia law firm of Colosimo, Patchin, Aronson, Kearney, Lindell and Brunfelt. He has been an attorney with the firm since 1988. He was a staff attorney for Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota in Virginia from 1982 to 1988, in private practice in Minneapolis from 1977 to 1982, staff counsel for H.I.R.E.D. (Helping Industry Resolve Employment Disabilities) from 1976 to 1977 and a staff attorney for the Urban Coalition in Minneapolis from 1974 to 1976. Aronson earned his juris doctorate degree from St. Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri in 1973 and his bachelor of arts degree from St. John's University in Collegeville in 1970.

Coldagelli, Eveleth, is an assistant St. Louis County attorney in Virginia, a position he has held since 1987. He was an associate attorney with the Virginia law firm of Cope and Peterson from 1985 to 1987, a solo practitioner in Eveleth and public defender from 1983 to 1985 and an associate attorney with the Hibbing law firm of Matonich and Persson from 1981 to 1983. Coldagelli earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of North Dakota School of Law in Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1978.

Starr, Hibbing, is a senior assistant St. Louis County attorney in Virginia. He has been with the St. Louis county attorney's office since 1988. He was an attorney with the Hibbing law firm of

Matonich and Persson from 1983 to 1988, a law clerk for Sixth Judicial District Judge Joseph Scherkenbach in Hibbing from 1982 to 1983 and an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Peterson, Engberg and Peterson in 1982. Starr earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1981 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1978.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received seven applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 15, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA ARTS BOARD

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of Sara Barrow to the Minnesota State Arts Board

Sara Barrow, of Minneapolis, will represent the 5th Congressional District. She has spent time working with the Walker Art Center Museum and co-founding the Fully Reciprocal Theatre Company and volunteering at other local arts organizations as well. Barrow will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota State Arts Board is dedicated to making the arts available to all citizens of Minnesota. The development of the arts is featured through a series of grants, programs and services that are administered by a professional staff. The eleven members include one member from each congressional district and three at-large members.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, October 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MEMBERS TO CAPITOL 2005 COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Joanne Benson, Diane Berthel, Cay Shea Hellervik, Hubert "Skip" Humphrey, III, John Labosky, George Latimer, Lila Moberg, Rick Nelson, Dr. Anita Pampusch, Peter Rodosovich and Bill Sands to the Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission.

Benson, White Bear Lake, is the chief executive officer of the Minnesota Business Academy in St. Paul and a former lieutenant governor of Minnesota.

Berthel, St. Paul, is a principal with the investment firm of Berthel Schutter LLC and serves on the Minnesota Historical Society's governing board.

Hellervik, St. Paul, is vice president of Personnel Decisions, International.

Humphrey, Golden Valley, is a senior vice president with GCI Tunheim in Minneapolis and a former Minnesota attorney general.

Labosky, Edina, is president of the Capital City Partnership in St. Paul.

Latimer, is a professor of Urban Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul and a former mayor of St. Paul.

Moberg, White Bear Lake, is a professional special event planner.

Nelson, St. Paul, is a government affairs consultant and chair of the Minnesota Film Board.

Pampusch, Roseville, is president of the Bush Foundation in St. Paul.

Rodosovich, New Brighton, is the executive director of the

University Branch YMCA of Metropolitan Minneapolis and a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sands, St. Paul, is the president of Western Bank and a former member of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board. Sands will chair this commission.

The Governor's State Capitol 2005 Commission was created by Executive Order to develop plans for the centennial celebration of the State Capitol in 2005. The commission consists of 15 members, including 11 appointed by the governor and four appointed by the legislature.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, October 11, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three Second Judicial District court trial bench vacancies in Ramsey County.

Two vacancies will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Lawrence Cohen and the resignation of the Honorable Charles Flinn, Jr. effective on January 7, 2002. The third vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable John Connolly on February 28, 2002.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Second Judicial District may request an application for these vacancies by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for these vacancies must submit an application. Candidates do not need to apply for each vacancy separately. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, November 5, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 1, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Tenth Judicial District court trial bench vacancy. This position is one of five new district court judgeships created by the 2001 Minnesota Legislature and the first of two new judgeships the Tenth Judicial District received. The Supreme Court certified the chambers of this judgeship for the city of Center City in Chisago County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Tenth Judicial District may request an application this vacancy by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation the judgeship must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, October 22, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Monday, October 1, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Anoka, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Krista Martin and Jenny Walker to the Tenth Judicial District trial court bench. Forty-one people applied for these vacancies.

Martin is a solo practitioner and a part-time assistant Tenth Judicial District public defender in Pine City, positions she has held since 1997. She was an attorney with the law firm of Bina, Holm and Martin in Pine City from 1995 to 1997, a staff attorney and managing attorney with Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota in Duluth from 1991 to 1995 and an associate attorney with the law firm of Hanft, Fride, et al in Duluth from 1990 to 1991. Martin earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1990 and her bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1987.

"Krista demonstrated a passion for Pine County. I know she will use this passion to help ensure adequate court facilities are constructed to better serve the citizens of Pine County," Governor Ventura said. "In addition, her work in family and juvenile law will serve her well in a court that sees a high percentage of these types of cases."

Martin is vice chair of the Board of Directors for Legal Aid Service of Northeast Minnesota, active in the Volunteer Attorney Program in Pine and Kanabec Counties, is on the leadership committee and a speaker for Parents Forever, and has served on the Pine County Probation Advisory Committee and the Mille Lacs Band Circle Sentencing committee.

Martin fills the vacancy created by the Honorable Linn Slattengren, who retired on July 15, 2001. The Supreme Court transferred the chambers of this judgeship to Pine County. Martin, 37, was born

in Peru, Indiana and currently lives in Hinckley with her son, Adam, 6.

Walker is an attorney and partner in the Anoka law firm of Jasper and Walker and a part-time assistant Tenth Judicial District public defender in Anoka, positions she has held since 1999. She was the Chief Tenth District Public Defender in Anoka from 1992 to 1999, a shareholder and associate attorney with the law firm of Nicol and Greenley in Anoka from 1990 to 1994 and an associate attorney with the law firm of Barna, Guzy, Merrill, Hynes and Giancola (now known as Barna, Guzy and Steffen) in Coon Rapids from 1987 to 1990. Walker earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1987 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1984.

"It should not surprise anyone who knows Jenny that one day she would become a judge," Governor Ventura said. "She has as deep a commitment to public service as anyone I know. As Chief Public Defender, Jenny has also proven that she can be a leader. She will be an excellent judge."

Walker is a past president of the Anoka County Bar Association, is active in the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota Public Defenders Association, Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Minnesota Women Lawyers. She currently serves on the Minnesota Judges Criminal Benchbook Committee, Anoka County Courthouse Security Committee, State Board of Public Defense Grant Committee, the Anoka County Community Corrections Advisory Board and the Tenth Judicial District Racial Bias Elimination Task Force, and has served on the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Commission on Judicial Selection, Governor Carlson's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and on a Citizens' Nominating Committee, appointed by Governor Ventura, to recommend candidates for state boards and commissions.

Walker fills the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Spencer Sokolowski, who retired on August 31, 2001. The Supreme Court continued the chambers of this judgeship for Anoka County. Walker, 39, was born in Waupaca, Wisconsin, and lives in Andover with her husband, Jonathan Jasper, and their two children, Courtney, 5, and Casey Jo, 3.

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For immediate release:
Monday, September 10, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS DIXON TO NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

(Roseau, MN)--Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Donna Dixon to a Ninth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in Roseau County. The opening occurred with the retirement of the Honorable James Wilson on June 30, 2001. Nine people applied for this vacancy.

Dixon is an attorney in private practice in Warroad and a part-time assistant Ninth Judicial District public defender. She has been a solo practitioner since 1994 and an assistant public defender since 1997. Dixon was an assistant municipal counsel (1987 to 1994) and a prosecutor (1985 to 1987) for the city of Olathe, Kansas and a municipal court prosecutor for the city attorney's office in Wichita, Kansas from 1984 to 1985. Dixon earned her juris doctorate degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from Washburn University in 1981.

"Donna impressed me with her no nonsense style," Governor Ventura said. "This approach will make her an effective judge. In addition, the combination of her background as a municipal prosecutor, criminal defender and her work in private practice have prepared her for the bench."

Dixon is on the Northwest Mentoring Program Board of Directors, Warroad School Business Advisory Board, Warroad Youth Hockey Extravaganza Benefit Committee and the Warroad Area Women of Today, of which she is currently secretary. Dixon received the Advocacy Achievement Award from Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota in 1997.

Dixon, 42, was born in Salina, Kansas, and resides in Warroad with her husband, Kent, and their two children, Jesse, 12, and Morgan, 10.

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For immediate release:
Friday, September 7, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO BOARD OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointments Dr. Eric Bartleson, Julie Jagusch, Kenneth LaCroix, Mary Mackbee, Sanford Nelson, Daniel Sullivan, Judy Swett, Ann Zweber Werner and Daniel Zimansky to the Board of School Administrators.

Dr. Eric Bartleson is the current school superintendent in his hometown of Winona. He has served as a licensed school administrator for 24 years. His experience includes seven years as a high school principal in Marshall and Milaca and 17 years as a superintendent in Lake Crystal, Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial, Mankato and Winona. Bartleson will represent superintendents and serve a four-year term expiring August 1, 2003.

Julie Jagusch, of Coon Rapids, is a classroom teacher and former chair of the Minnesota Board of Teaching. She also served on the Board of Education Working Group to develop a code of ethics for administrators and school personnel. Jagusch will represent classroom teachers and serve a three-year term expiring August 1, 2002.

Kenneth LaCroix, of Hastings, has served as a K-12 public school teacher, principal and superintendent. LaCroix recently retired after 22 years as the superintendent of Hastings Public Schools. He has also taught as an adjunct assistant professor in the Educational Administrative Licensure Program for K-12 principals and superintendents at the University of St. Thomas and Saint Mary's University. LaCroix will represent higher education administrators and serve a four-year term expiring August 1, 2004.

Mary Mackbee, of Bloomington is the principal at Central High

School in St. Paul. She has been a building principal since 1978 and is a former Minnesota Principal of the Year. Mackbee will represent secondary principals and will serve a three-year term expiring August 1, 2003.

Sanford Nelson, of Richwood, is the elementary school principal at Rossman Elementary School in Detroit Lakes. He is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College and holds a M.S. degree in curriculum and instruction from St. Cloud State University. Nelson will represent elementary school principals and serve a two-year term expiring August 1, 2003.

Daniel Sullivan, of Burnsville, is the director of special education for Intermediate School District 917. He provided regional and statewide leadership for the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education, serving as president, legislative chair, secretary, and board director. Sullivan earned a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Minnesota and has taught for the past four years in the administrator licensure program at the University of Minnesota. Sullivan will represent special education directors and will serve a four-year term expiring August 1, 2004.

Judy Swett, of St. Paul is a parent of a child with a disability. She has been involved in her children's education and has served on district-wide and statewide advisory committees. Swett will represent the public citizens and serve a one-year term expiring August 1, 2002.

Ann Zweber Werner, of Minneapolis, is the coordinator of Licensing and Leadership Development for Educational Administrators at the University of Minnesota, College of Education and Human Development and the Department of Educational Policy and Administration. She has experience in administering schools ranging in size from 400 students to 2800 students representing both urban and suburban populations. Werner will represent education faculty members and serve a four-year term expiring August 1, 2004.

Daniel Zimansky, of Tracy, is a school board member for the Tracy Area Schools. He has served as a school board member for 17 years and is currently the board chair. He also serves on the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, the Minnesota Rural Education Association and the Southwest Regional Development Commission. Zimanksy will represent school board members and serve a one-year term expiring August 1, 2002.

The board was created by the 2001 Legislature. The board shall

be responsible for licensing school administrators, reviewing and approving preparation programs for school administrators and alternative preparation programs for administrators. The board consists of nine members.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, September 6, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Sixth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Virginia in St. Louis County. The vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Robert Berger on September 18, 2001. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of this judgeship for St. Louis County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Sixth Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via E-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address no later than **Wednesday, October 3, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, September 6, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced five finalists for two Tenth Judicial District trial court bench vacancies. The first vacancy occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Linn Slattengren on July 15, 2001. The Supreme Court transferred the chambers of this judgeship from Chisago County to Pine County. The second vacancy occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Spencer Sokolowski on August 31, 2001. The Supreme Court certified the continuation of this judgeship for Anoka County. The finalists are Jeffrey Edblad, Stephen Halsey, Howard Helgen, Krista Martin and Jenny Walker.

Edblad, Cambridge, is the Isanti County Attorney, a position he has held since 1995. He was an assistant Chisago County attorney from 1989 through 1994 and an associate attorney with the Rancourt Law Offices in Lindstrom and Forest Lake as well as an assistant Tenth Judicial District public defender in 1989. Edblad has also been an adjunct faculty at the Cambridge campus of Anoka Ramsey Community College since 1994. Edblad earned his juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1988 and his bachelor of arts degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter in 1984.

Halsey, Anoka, is an attorney in the law firm of Moore, Halsey and Eskola in Fridley, a position he has held since 1984. He was an attorney with the law firm of Peterson and Kalina in Columbia Heights from 1979 to 1984 and Babcock, Locher, Neilson and Mannella in Anoka from 1978 to 1979. Halsey earned his Juris Doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul in 1978 and his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Cloud State University in 1973.

Helgen, Coon Rapids, is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Helgen and Helgen in Coon Rapids, a position he has held since 1991. He was an attorney and partner with the law firm of Tierney,

Norton and Helgen in Minneapolis from 1977 to 1991. Helgen earned his juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1977 and his bachelor of arts degree cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield in 1974.

Martin, Hinckley, is a solo practitioner and a part-time assistant Tenth Judicial District public defender in Pine City, positions she has held since 1997. She was an attorney with the law firm of Bina, Holm and Martin in Pine City from 1995 to 1997, a staff attorney and managing attorney with Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota in Duluth from 1991 to 1995 and an associate attorney with the law firm of Hanft, Fride, et al in Duluth from 1990 to 1991. Martin earned her juris doctorate degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1990 and her bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1987.

Walker, Andover, is an attorney and partner in the Anoka law firm of Jasper and Walker and a part-time assistant Tenth Judicial District public defender in Anoka, positions she has held since 1999. She was the Chief Tenth District Public Defender in Anoka from 1992 to 1999, a shareholder and associate attorney with the law firm of Nicol and Greenley in Anoka from 1990 to 1994 and an associate attorney with the law firm of Barna, Guzy, Merrill, Hynes and Giancola (now known as Barna, Guzy and Steffen) in Coon Rapids from 1987 to 1990. Walker earned her juris doctorate degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul in 1987 and her bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1984.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members; nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received 41 applications for these two judicial vacancies.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, September 5, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

(St. Paul) Governor Ventura today announced the appointment of George Garnett to the Metropolitan Council.

Garnett, of Minneapolis, is the principal of Garnett Associates, a consulting firm focusing on community and economic development. He is also involved in many volunteer endeavors in affordable housing and community development issues. Garnett holds a bachelor of arts in political science from Yale University. He also attended the University of Nebraska for legal course work in contract law. Garnett replaces Matthew Ramadan, who resigned in May, to complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

The Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee received five applicants and narrowed the list to three. Those three were invited to participate in a public hearing, where they had a chance to respond to questions about their vision for the Met Council. A seven-person committee then used feedback from the hearing to present the governor with a recommended list of finalists.

The Metropolitan Council coordinates planning and development in the seven county metropolitan area and directly operates several regional services. The council's work includes long-range planning for airports, highways parks, sewers, housing, economic development and land use policy development. The council consists of 17 members including the chair.

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For immediate release:
Monday, August 13, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Dr. Ronald Swanson to the Rural Health Advisory Committee.

Swanson, Perham, is the president of Northwest Technical College, with campuses in Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, East Grand Forks, Moorhead and Wadena. He has held numerous positions with higher education institutions in various areas of the United States for over 20 years. Swanson earned his doctorate degree in education from Pennsylvania State University in 1995, his master's degree (1974) and bachelor of science degree (1968) from the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. Swanson replaces Dr. Byron Crouse, who resigned, as a representative of higher education to complete a four-year term expiring on January 5, 2004.

The Rural Health Advisory Committee advises the commissioner of health and other state agencies on rural health issues. The committee consists of 15 members appointed by the governor, all of whom must reside outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 31, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS FIVE TO BOARD OF REGENTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Frank Berman, Jean Keffeler, Richard "Pinky" McNamara and Lakeesha Ransom and the reappointment of Michael O'Keefe to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Berman, Edina, has been an attorney in private practice in Minneapolis since 1968. He also serves on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, was a member of the Jewish Federation of Minneapolis Committee for Identity and Continuity, and chaired the Holocaust Survivors Commemorative Event. Berman earned his law degree (1965) and his bachelor of science degree (1962) from the University of Minnesota. Berman replaces Warren Larson as an at-large member.

Keffeler, Minneapolis, has held a wide range of private and public sector positions, including senior vice president of the west region for HealthOne Corporation, vice president of finance and planning and chief financial officer of the data storage products division of Control Data Corporation, assistant vice president of corporate competitive strategies and regulatory and government relations for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, and deputy administrator and director of planning and development for Hennepin County. Keffeler currently serves on the board of several American Express subsidiary funds and life insurance companies, has previously served on the Board of Regents as well as numerous commissions and councils. Keffeler has an honorary doctorate degree from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, earned a master of science degree in public administration and a masters degree in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1969, and her bachelor of arts degree summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1967. Keffeler fills the vacancy that was created by the death of William Peterson.

McNamara, Edina, has been the chief executive officer and owner

of Activar, Inc. in Edina since 1968. Previously, he was in sales with Archer Daniels Midland in Minneapolis from 1959 to 1968. McNamara is a board member of the University of Minnesota Foundation, Dunwoody Institute, the Egan Companies and Woodland Container. McNamara earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1956. McNamara replaces Patricia Spence as an at-large member.

O'Keefe, Minneapolis, has been commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services since March 1999. He was executive vice president and chief executive officer of The McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis from 1989 to 1999 and president of the Consortium for the Advancement of Private Higher Education in Washington, DC from 1983 to 1989. O'Keefe has also served as a board member of the Minnesota Council on Foundations and TERI, Inc., a Boston-based student loan guarantor corporation. O'Keefe earned his master of science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1968 and his bachelor of science degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1964. O'Keefe, who has served on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents since December 1996, is reappointed as a representative of the Fifth Congressional District.

Ransom, Edina, is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. She was an Eisenhower Program intern for the Higher Education Services Office and an intern with the United States

Mission to the United Nations in Vienna, Austria. Ransom is chair of the Coca-Cola Academic Initiative Committee and the Board of Regents representative from the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, where she also served as executive officer at-large. Ransom earned her bachelor of arts degree from Southwest State University in Marshall in 1995. Ransom replaces Jessica Phillips as the student representative.

As the primary governing body of the University of Minnesota, the Board of Regents appoints, evaluates, and advises the president; adopts the mission, policies, and the plans for the University; exercises fiduciary responsibility for its resources and approves its budgets; promotes educational quality and ensures institutional autonomy. There are 12 members, eight of whom are elected from each of the state's congressional districts and four members who serve at-large, including one who must be a University student at the time of election.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura



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For immediate release:
Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO THE BOARD OF THE CENTER FOR ARTS EDUCATION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Robert Brandt to the Board of the Center for Arts Education.

Brandt, of St. Paul, has over 25 years of higher education experience. During this time he has utilized the arts in the role of "out of the classroom learning." He will serve as a member of the Board.

The Board has the powers necessary for the care, management, and control of the Minnesota Center for Arts Education. The Board consists of 15 members.

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Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO THE COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Sampson Wilson to the Council on Black Minnesotans.

Wilson, of Brooklyn Park, is a journalist from Liberia. He publishes *The African Journal USA,* a Minnesota-based African newspaper. Wilson is active in volunteer activities, such as after-school programs, education of HIV and AIDS-related issues, and legal counseling for African immigrants. He also remains in contact with West African leaders through his publication. Wilson will act as the representative of West African ethnicity.

The council makes recommendations to the governor and Legislature on improving the economic and social conditions of African American and Native American Minnesotans. Legislative Bill SF 142 added two seats to the council and mandated that each go to representatives whose ethnic heritages are West and East African, respectively.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BOUNDARY AREA COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of Bill Clapp and James Fitzpatrick to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission.

Clapp, of St. Paul, worked for the Weyerhaeuser Company for 17 years and as an assistant Minnesota Attorney General for 20 years. Since retiring in 1993 he has been active volunteering with environmental groups and serving on the boards of the Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy, the Rivers Council of Minnesota, and the Summit Hill District 16 Planning Council.

Fitzpatrick, of Hastings, has served on the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission since 1993. He manages a privately funded 425-acre nature center on the St. Croix River. Fitzpatrick is an elected township official, a Vietnam veteran, and a life-long resident of the St. Croix Valley.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission studies, makes recommendations, coordinates intergovernmental activities, and provides public information concerning the use of development and the protection of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers that form the border of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN RADIO BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Chief Kent Therkelson to the Metropolitan Radio Board.

Therkelson, of Eagan, is chief of the Eagan Police Department. He was very involved in the 800-megahertz trunking radio system while he was a supervisor for the Bloomington Police Department. Therkelson is replacing Mancel Mitchell on the board.

The Metropolitan Radio Board was created to oversee the development of a region-wide 800-megahertz trunked radio system to serve all public agencies, particularly those in the field of public safety. By sharing equipment and radio frequencies, a single integrated system provides efficiencies in the use of limited radio spectrum and reduces infrastructure costs. The board consists of 17 members, five appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO THE CENTER FOR RURAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of Cynthia Johnson, Robert Bunger, and Allen Olson to the Center for Rural Policy and Development.

Johnson, of Fergus Falls, is a member of the Minnesota Farmer's Union and has recently finished her first term on the center's board. She has been reappointed as the farm organization representative.

Bunger, of Milaca, has served on the center's board since 1997. As a member of a town with a population of less than 5,000, he has been reappointed as the small town representative.

Olson, of Eagan, is president and CEO of the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota, the state community banks' trade association, which deals with approximately 400 locally-owned commercial banks throughout Minnesota. He is also a former state attorney general and governor of North Dakota. He is being appointed as the non-retail rural business representative.

The Center for Rural Policy and Development identifies social and economic issues in rural Minnesota and, through alliances and partnerships, finds practical solutions for problems. The center consists of sixteen members; twelve of these members represent relevant populations, organizations, and businesses relevant to rural policy and development. The center is based at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

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For immediate release:
Friday, July 27, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NINE TO MINNESOTA COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of Ellis Bullock, Daniel Capouch, Pamela Harris, Don Helmsetter, Howard Orenstein, Elizabeth Pederson, Corrie Schueller, Jackie Sinykin, and Bobby Whitefeather to the Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service.

Bullock, of Minneapolis, is the director of Youth Trust of Minneapolis. He has served on the founding board of Youth Trust and hosted its rollout meeting to the community. Bullock will act as the community-based representative.

Capouch, of Minneapolis, is the Human Services Program Manager for the Hennepin County Department of Children and Family Services. He worked in divorce mediation positions with the Minnesota Supreme Court. Capouch will be the local government representative.

Harris, of Minneapolis, is an employment law attorney specializing in employment law and the Americans with Disabilities Act. She was active on the board of directors at the Courage Center and the Chrysalis Women's Center. Harris will perform as the Legal Expert representative.

Helmsetter, of Minneapolis, is the superintendent of schools in Spring Lake Park, MN. He worked on the National Youth Leadership Council and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. Helmsetter will be the education representative.

Orenstein, of St. Paul, is a lawyer and a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives. He serves on the boards of Jewish Community Relations Council and Citizens for a Safer Minnesota. Orenstein will act as a legal expert representative.

Pederson, of Plymouth, is the co-director of a disability outreach program in the Twin Cities. She has participated as a facilitator and disabilities ministry coordinator in programs for the Courage Center, AmeriCorps, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Pederson will be the disability expert representative.

Schueller, of Roseville, is the youth services manager at the Volunteer Resource Center in the Twin Cities. Her volunteer activities include leadership positions in AmeriCorps, the Minnesota Alliance with Youth, Prevention Resources in Drug Education, and Girl Scouts. Schueller will function as the youth development representative.

Sinykin, of Bloomington, is a consultant and the previous executive director of The Volunteer Center. She has performed in various board administrative positions with the National Council of Jewish Women, Battered Women's Task Force, and the MN Office of Volunteer Service. She will act as the volunteer representative.

Whitefeather, of Red Lake, is an American Indian and currently the elected chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. Whitefeather will be the tribal representative.

The Minnesota Commission on National and Community Service pursues funding sources, coordinates volunteer learning service programs, and administers the youth works grant program. The commission also evaluates program plans and administers the federal AmeriCorps Program in Minnesota. There are 18 members on the commission.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 24, 2001

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced two Tenth Judicial District court trial bench vacancies.

The first vacancy occurred with the retirement of the Honorable Linn Slattengren on July 15, 2001. The Supreme Court transferred the chambers of this judgeship from Chisago County to Pine County.

The second vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable Spencer Sokolowski on August 31, 2001. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of this judgeship for Anoka County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Tenth Judicial District may request an application for either or both vacancies by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via e-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for these vacancies must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation for either or both judgeships must be submitted to the above address so they are received no later than **Monday, August 20, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 24, 2001

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE NARROWS LIST OF MET COUNCIL APPLICANTS

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura's nominating committee for appointment to the Metropolitan Council District 7 vacancy, which includes North Minneapolis, has reviewed the applicants and selected Paul Bauknight, George Garnett and Peter Johnson.

The selected candidates will have an opportunity to present their ideas and qualifications for appointment at the public hearing, Monday, July 30, 2001 at 4:00 P.M., at the King Park Center, Nicollet and 41st Street in South Minneapolis (two blocks west of 35W).

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 19, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FINALISTS

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced three finalists for a Ninth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Roseau in Roseau County. The vacancy occurred with the retirement of the Honorable James Wilson on June 30, 2001. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of this judgeship for Roseau County. Named as finalists by the commission are Randall Burg, Donna Dixon and Tamara Yon.

Burg, Bemidji, has been an assistant Beltrami County attorney since 1992 and a part-time United States Magistrate Judge since 1990. He was also an attorney with the Bemidji law firm of Cann, Schmidt, Haskell and D'Albani from 1987 to 1991, a law clerk for Beltrami County District Court Judge James Preece from 1981 to 1986 and a law clerk for Hennepin County District Court Judge David Leslie from 1977 to 1981. Burg earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts in 1973.

Dixon, Warroad, is an attorney in private practice in Warroad and a part-time assistant Ninth Judicial District public defender. She has been a solo practitioner since 1994 and an assistant public defender since 1997. Dixon was an assistant municipal counsel (1987 to 1994) and a prosecutor (1985 to 1987) for the city of Olathe, Kansas and a municipal court prosecutor for the city attorney's office in Witchita, Kansas from 1984 to 1985. Dixon earned her juris doctorate degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas in 1984 and her bachelor of arts degree from Washburn University in 1981.

Yon, Crookston, is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Johannson, Rust, Fagerlund, Yon and Stock in Crookston and an

adjunct professor of business law at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. She has been a partner of the firm since 1999 and was an associate attorney from 1994 to 1999. Yon earned her juris doctorate degree from the University of North Dakota Law School in Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1994, after attending the University of Minnesota Law School her first year. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead in 1991.

The Commission on Judicial Selection screens judicial candidates and makes recommendations to the governor for district court vacancies that occur during the term of a judge. The commission consists of 13 members: nine at-large members and four members from the judicial district. The commission members include attorneys and non-attorneys appointed by the governor and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The commission received nine applications for this judicial vacancy.

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For immediate release:
Thursday, July 12, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Ann Yonamine to the Minnesota State High School League.

Yonamine, Eden Prairie, is a current member and former chair of the Eden Prairie School Board. She has served on the Region 6AA Executive Committee of the Minnesota State High School League and is an active volunteer in the Eden Prairie schools and in the community. Yonamine replaces Jacqueline Rosholt for a four-year term expiring on July 31, 2005.

The Minnesota State High School League exercises control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletics, and musical, dramatic and other contests between students of Minnesota high schools. The Minnesota State High School League consists of 20 members, including four appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO RACING COMMISSION

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Scott LeDoux, Robert McNamara and Warren Peiffer to the Minnesota Racing Commission. All three men are appointed to six-year terms expiring on June 30, 2007. In addition, the governor reappointed Cynthia Piper chair of the commission for another two years.

LeDoux, Andover, is a color commentator for ESPN, and in sales for Rayfo/Wastequip. He was an amateur and professional boxer for 17 years and continues to work out with boxers like Lennox Lewis. He is a former member and former chair of the state Board of Boxing. LeDoux replaces Carol Connolly.

McNamara, Edina, has owned McNamara's Sports Bar in Minneapolis for 43 years, is currently president of the St. Anthony Club, chair of the University of Minnesota Baseline Club, and has been president of the East Hennepin Business Association and the Downtown Bar and Restaurant Association. McNamara replaces Mark Custer.

Peiffer, Chaska, is the chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Ditch Witch of Minnesota, a Shakopee-based construction company. He has 25 years of business experience in Minnesota. Peiffer replaces James Filkins.

The Minnesota Racing Commission licenses persons and organizations to operate racetracks, conduct horse racing, conduct pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, enforces and collects all applicable taxes and license fees, establishes a Minnesota Breeders' Fund and operates a card club. The commission consists of nine members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, July 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO GAMBLING CONTROL BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Michelle Seidel and the reappointment of Peggy Moon to the Gambling Control Board.

Seidel, Minneapolis, is a claims adjuster with Harleysville Insurance in Edina. She has five years of experience in the investigation, negotiation, settlement and closing of claims. Seidel replaces Eldon Fontana, who resigned, to complete a four-year term expiring on June 30, 2002.

Moon, Glenwood, is an active member of the American Legion, having served as post adjutant, post commander and post gambling manager. She is currently chair of the Gambling Control Board and has been a member of the board since December 1994. Moon is appointed to another four-year term expiring on June 30, 2005.

The Gambling Control Board issues, suspends and revokes licenses of organizations, bingo halls, distributors and manufacturers of gambling equipment, registers gambling equipment, collects license fees and inspects records, conducts hearings to insure integrity of operations and compliance with all applicable laws and rules. The Gambling Control Board consists of seven members, including five appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 29, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Janet McMillan and the reappointment of Ann Glumac to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee. Both members are appointed to four-year terms expiring on January 3, 2005.

McMillan, Long Lake, recently retired after serving two four-year terms on the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. McMillan replaces Jeffrey Johnson as a resident of the Third Congressional District.

Glumac, Duluth, is the president of the Great Lakes Aquarium and has held numerous positions in state government, including deputy commissioner of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and administrator of the House of Representatives Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Glumac is reappointed to a second term as a resident of the Eighth Congressional District.

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Citizens' Advisory Committee advises the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) on a strategic plan for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Citizens' Advisory Committee consists of 11 members.

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For immediate release:
Monday, June 25, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA BOARD OF NURSING

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Dianna Bryant to the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

Bryant, of Rochester, has worked for fifteen years as a registered nurse. She currently is the RN Clinical Research Coordinator at the Mayo Clinic. Bryant has a master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas. Bryant will serve a four-year term expiring in January 2005.

The Minnesota Board of Nursing licenses professional and practical nurses, registers public health nurses, disciplines and renews licenses, approves nursing schools, lists professional nursing organizations which certify certain advanced nurse specialists for the purpose of third party reimbursement, and identifies nurse practitioners eligible to prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices. The board also approves training programs and competency evaluation programs for nursing assistants in nursing homes and maintains a registry of nursing assistants. The board consists of sixteen members.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 22, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Arthur Seaberg to the Higher Education Services Council.

Seaberg, of Eagan, served for ten years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He holds a JD from the William Mitchell School of Law and a BA from the Minnesota State University Mankato. Seaberg will serve a four-year term expiring in January 2005.

The Higher Education Services Council administers the financial aid programs in the state, hires the executive director, and advises the Legislature and the governor. The council consists of nine members.

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For immediate release:
Tuesday, June 19, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Daniel Galles to the Metropolitan Council.

Galles, of Saint Paul, is a partner in Galles Companies, where he serves as the principal financial and development manager for a family of companies with operations in real estate, rental housing, hospitality and retail. He is the immediate past president of the West End Business and Professional Association and serves on the board of directors of the Highland District Council, the Saint Paul Planning Commission, the Saint Paul Board of Zoning Appeals, the Ramsey County Capital Improvement Program Committee and the Riverview Corridor Citizen Workgroup. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Public Administration from the University of North Dakota. Galles replaces Fred Perez, who resigned in March, to complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

The Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee received eleven applicants and narrowed the list to five. Those five were invited to participate in a public hearing, where they had a chance to respond to questions about their vision for the Met Council. A seven-person committee then used feedback from the hearing to present the governor with a recommended list of finalists. In appointing Galles, Governor Ventura said, "Dan has a straight forward style, he will serve the council well."

The Metropolitan Council coordinates planning and development in the seven county metropolitan area and directly operates several regional services. The council's work includes long-range planning for airports, highways, parks, sewers, housing, economic development and land use policy development. The council consists of 17 members including the chair.

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For immediate release:
Monday, June 18, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MNSCU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Michael Redlinger to MnSCU.

Redlinger, of Moorhead, is the state chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association. He has worked with current trustees in conveying the concerns of students to the MnSCU community. Redlinger has also worked on such committees as the Chancellor Search Advisory Council and the MnSCU Government Relations Conference.

MnSCU oversees the technical colleges, community colleges, and state universities and all related property.

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Friday, June 15, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Paul Toren to the Environmental Quality Board.

Toren, of Mahtomedi, worked for 28 years in 3M Central Research Laboratories. He holds a doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Minnesota. Toren has served on the board since 1989.

The board insures coordination and cooperation among state agencies on environmental issues. It also advises the governor and the legislature on environmental legislation and issues.

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 15, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Tom Johnson to the Governor's Advisory Council on Technology for People with Disabilities.

Johnson, of Rochester, is a certified computer technician and a national award winning commercial copywriter. His part-time work involves Web site design and being a Web master. Johnson was the National Public Relations chair for the Reform Party.

The council assists the Department of Agriculture in preparing and carrying out Minnesota's proposal for the U.S. Department of Education Funds. The council also helps the Department of Administration develop and administer a comprehensive, consumer-responsive system of assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, June 13, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Dr. Bonita Baskin and Kimberly Roden to the Minnesota Technology, Inc. Board of Directors. Both members will serve four-year terms expiring on January 3, 2005.

Baskin, Edina, is the founder of Viromed Laboratories, Inc., a provider of diagnostic and biosafety laboratory testing in Minneapolis. She is president of the Minnesota Biotechnology Association and serves on the advisory board of the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. Baskin replaces Ruth Shuman on the board.

Roden, Minnetonka, is vice president of public affairs and customer service at Time Warner Cable of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She has 20 years of experience in developing and influencing public policy in the telecommunications and energy fields and serves on numerous community boards. Roden replaces Charles Geisler on the board.

Minnesota Technology, Inc. is a public, non-profit corporation established to help small and medium-sized companies apply, develop and commercialize technology. This is accomplished through diversifying the greater Minnesota economy, promoting the technology community in Minnesota and providing leadership in public policy discussions. The Minnesota Technology, Inc. Board of Directors consists of 15 members, including the chair and six members appointed by the governor.

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Monday, June 11, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION (MAEF)

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Gary Floss to MAEF.

Floss, of New Brighton, is the vice president of corporate quality at Medtronic, Inc. He formerly served on the boards of the American Society for Quality and the GOAL/QPC research, training, and consulting company. Floss continues to work towards improving relations between business and education by leading team-building sessions on human resource development. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University. Floss will serve a four-year term expiring on January 3, 2005.

The foundation promotes excellence in academics for Minnesota public schools through a public-private partnership. The board consists of 22 members.

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 8, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO AUTO ASSIGNED CLAIMS BUREAU

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Linda Rucker to the Minnesota Automobile Assigned Claims Bureau.

Rucker, Maple Grove, is a casualty no-fault manager with American Family Insurance and has worked in the no-fault insurance industry since 1978 as an adjuster, specialist, and manager. Rucker replaces John Pelto, who resigned, to complete a two-year term that expires on January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota Automobile Assigned Claims Bureau governs the operation of the Minnesota Auto Assigned Claims Plan in providing no-fault basic economic loss benefits to eligible recipients. The bureau consists of seven members, including two public members appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD ON AGING

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Richard Jackson to the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Jackson, Princeton, owned Jackson Photography in Princeton, was a Mille Lacs County Commissioner, served on the Region 7E Area Agency on Aging and has been active in numerous Princeton and Mille Lacs County organizations. Jackson replaces Irene Bertram to complete a four-year term expiring on January 6, 2003.

The Minnesota Board on Aging develops, coordinates, evaluates and administers federal and state funds for programs for the aging; makes grants to 14 area agencies on aging and non-profit agencies; and serves as an advocate for older persons. The board consists of 25 members appointed by the governor.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO BOARD OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

(St. Paul, MN) Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointment of Molly Haugen to the State Board of Public Defense.

Haugen, Duluth, is the Human Resource Manager with the Chromaline Corporation in Duluth. She has served as president of the Northland Human Resource Association and chair of the Minnesota State Human Resource Association Conference. Haugen replaces Dr. Norm Solomon, who resigned, to complete a four-year term expiring on January 5, 2004.

The State Board of Public Defense approves and recommends a budget to the Legislature, and establishes procedures for distribution of state funding for the board, the Office of the State Public Defender, the judicial district public defenders and the public defense corporations. The board also appoints the state public defender and the chief public defenders of the state's ten judicial districts. The board consists of seven members, including four attorneys appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court and three public members appointed by the governor.

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For immediate release:
Friday, June 8, 2001

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION ANNOUNCES NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT VACANCY

(St. Paul, MN) The Commission on Judicial Selection today announced a Ninth Judicial District trial court bench vacancy in the city of Roseau in Roseau County. The vacancy will occur with the retirement of the Honorable James Wilson on June 30, 2001. The Supreme Court has certified the continuation of this judgeship for Roseau County.

Anyone learned in the law who is a resident of the Ninth Judicial District may request an application by calling John Hultquist at 651-296-0019, via E-mail at john.hultquist@state.mn.us or by writing:

George W. Soule, Chair
Commission on Judicial Selection
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

All candidates for this vacancy must submit an application. Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the above address no later than **Monday, July 2, 2001.**

Applicants are asked not to contact the commission members individually, as the nine at-large members and the four district members will conduct interviews at a later date.

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Wednesday, June 6, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Kristin Harner and Colleen Paulus to the Governor's Food Safety Advisory Council.

Harner, of St. Paul, is the communications director for the Farm Bureau Organization. She will serve as the Farm Bureau representative in a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

Paulus, of St. Paul, is the is the manager of the food, beverage and lodging program for the Minnesota Department of Health and is involved in setting policy, direction and leadership regarding food safety issues for the state. Paulus will represent the health profession and complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

The committee advises the commissioner of agriculture and the Legislature on food issues and food safety. The council consists of 14 members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS THREE TO MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION (MAEF)

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Virginia Clark, Susan Holderness and Mary Mackbee to MAEF.

Clark, of Plymouth, is the principal at Oakewood Elementary School in Wayzata. She has served one term on the board, representing the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association. Clark will serve a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

Holderness, of Edina, is the director of government affairs and community relations for U.S. Congressman Jim Ramstad. She is very active and well connected in the business and education communities. Holderness will serve a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

Mackbee, of Bloomington, has been a public school educator for 28 years. She is well known as an advocate for students, teachers and community. Mackbee is the principal at Central High School in St. Paul. She will serve a four-year term expiring January 3, 2005.

The foundation promotes excellence in academics for Minnesota public schools through a public-private partnership. The board consists of 22 members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR UNSCHEDULED VACANCY ON METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today announced the appointments of the Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee, which will recommend candidates to replace Matthew Ramadan. Ramadan, who represents district seven (North Minneapolis) resigned from the Metropolitan Council effective May 16, 2001. The Metropolitan Council coordinates the planning and development of the seven county metropolitan area and establishes policies for regional transportation, sewer, airports, parks, human services and housing systems. The council consists of 16 members from districts drawn by the legislature and the chair, Ted Mondale.

As required by state statute, notice of Metropolitan Council vacancies and expiration of terms must be published in newspapers of general circulation in the metropolitan area and the appropriate districts. The notices must describe the appointments process and invite participation and recommendations on the appointment. Applications are available in the Office of the Secretary of State and must be submitted by the close of business on June 26, 2001. You can also obtain an application from the Secretary of State Web site at www.sos.state.mn.us under the open appointments link.

The Metropolitan Council Nominating Committee is composed of seven metropolitan citizens, including three elected officials within the metropolitan area:

Chair
Jean Harris, Mayor of Eden Prairie

Elected Officials

Karen Anderson, Mayor of Minnetonka
Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner

Citizen Members

Kathleen Anderson, Director of Congressman Martin Sabo's Office
Joe Enge, Brooklyn Park City Council Member
Barb Haake, self-employed, Benefit Broker
Andrea Hart Kajer, City of Minneapolis Director of Government Relations

Also in accordance with state statute: the nominating committee will conduct a public meeting to accept statements from persons who have been nominated or have applied for appointment. During the meeting, the public will have an opportunity to provide testimony regarding the Metropolitan Council applicants. Following the meeting, the committee will submit a list of nominees to the governor. The governor is not required to appoint from the list. All appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS FOUR TO MINNESOTA ZOOLOGICAL BOARD

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura appointed Willis Branning and Dr. Christopher Moir to the Minnesota Zoological Board today. He also reappointed current members James Trenda and Gene Merriam.

Willis Branning, of Apple Valley, is on the Dakota County Board of Commissioners representing District 7. He has previously served as the mayor of Apple Valley.

Dr. Christopher Moir, of Rochester, is the chair and consultant in the division of pediatric surgery at the Mayo Foundation, associate professor of surgery at the Mayo Medical School, and a medical director at Mayo Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital.

James Trenda, of Apple Valley, has served three terms on the Minnesota Zoo Foundation and one term on the Minnesota Zoological Board.

Gene Merriam, of Coon Rapids, is a current member of the Minnesota Zoo Board. He is the chair of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the vice-president of finance and chief financial officer at ECM Publishers, Inc.

The board approves budgets, both operative and capital, enacts rules, establishes admission rates, and hires and evaluates an executive director. The board consists of thirty members.

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GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO PUBLIC PROGRAMS RISK ADJUSTMENT WORK GROUP

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Andrea Kao and Jan Kronholm to the Public Programs Risk Adjustment Work Group.

Kao, of St. Paul, is the program manager for Patient Choice Healthcare, a new "risk adjusted" health care plan developed by a group from Business Health Care Action Groups. She also has experience in working with the developing risk adjustment technology. Kao will serve a four-year term expiring June 30, 2005.

Kronholm, of Minneapolis, is a finance officer for the Hennepin County Community Health Department. The department manages home and community-based waiver programs and is actively involved in planning for managed care programs. Kronholm will serve a four-year term expiring June 30, 2005.

The work group advises the commissioners of health and human services in the design of the public programs risk adjustment system. The work group consists of 18 members.

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For immediate release:
Wednesday, June 6, 2001

GOVERNOR APPOINTS ONE TO DULUTH ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTER (DECC)

(St. Paul, MN) - Governor Jesse Ventura today appointed Greg Fox to the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

Fox, of Duluth, is vice chancellor for finance and operations at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. Fox has been a great supporter of DECC and will complete a term expiring January 6, 2003.

The board administers, promotes & operates the convention center as a state facility. A report is submitted yearly to the Governor & the legislature detailing activities & finances for the previous year & a proposed budget for the succeeding two years.

Office of Governor Jesse Ventura
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