Welcome – familiar faces (Secretary of State Kiffmeyer, the Honorable Thomas McCarthy, legislators, Fisher, Bosacker, Wheelock)

and new faces (mainly from the business sector . . . )

Let me say right at the outset: Everyone in this room understands technology more than I do . . . but that doesn’t matter.

I only need to know one thing about technology: It’s a tool.

This is the first meeting of the Technology Enterprise Board . . . and I do know quite a bit about enterprise.

After all, I’ve been an entrepreneur all my life . . . .

So this board exists to help make sure that both government and the private sector know about the best tools they need to be efficient and successful enterprises.

I just want to emphasize some of the important goals of this Board:

- Make sure that the information highway connects every city, town and village in Minnesota
- Increase the efficiency and public access of online government services
- Find ways that technology can improve our state-wide economy
- Oversee the Technology Enterprise Fund.
- Basically, we want to use the combined brainpower of the public and private sectors - -- to make sure that we have the right tools in the right hands --- to make Minnesota the #1 state in technology and telecommunications.

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