

GOOD MORNING.

THANK YOU, (SENATOR) DAVE ZIEN FOR THAT WARM, WONDERFUL
ABBOTSFORD INTRODUCTION... AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON
BEHALF OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

WHAT A GREAT DAY TO BE BACK IN ABBOTSFORD... WISCONSIN'S FIRST CITY
AND HOME OF THE ABBOTSFORD FALCONS... FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE \$18.5
MILLION ABBOTSFORD BYPASS.

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE ABBOTSFORD
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM AND THE COLBY BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM. THEY EACH
MADE THEIR HOMETOWNS VERY PROUD BY BRINGING HOME STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SEASON. GREAT JOB!

I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING OUT TODAY, ESPECIALLY
REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT SUDER, WHO IS A TRUE FRIEND OF THE NEW AND
IMPROVED HIGHWAY 29, THE ABBOTSFORD V-F-W, DAN PRITCHARD, FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF

TRANSPORTATION, ABBOTSFORD CITY ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM BEIL, THE ABBOTSFORD AND COLBY HIGH SCHOOL BANDS, TONI NOVAK AND JON ROTI (Band directors), AND ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO ARE AS COMMITTED TO BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING WISCONSIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE AS I AM.

THANK YOU ALSO TO THE MANY AREA CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD ON THIS PROJECT: OWEN AYRES AND ASSOCIATES; CLARK COUNTY ABSTRACT AND TITLE COMPANY OF NEILSVILLE; LANG ASSOCIATES OF WAUSAU; MAXIM TECHNOLOGIES OF WAUSAU; RUNKEL ABSTRACT AND TITLE COMPANY OF WAUSAU; AMERICAN ASPHALT OF WISCONSIN IN MOSINEE; AND RIVER VALLEY TESTING CORPORATION OF WAUSAU.

(((I'LL BEGIN WITH A STORY ABOUT EXPECTATIONS.

A FARMER FRIEND OF MINE FROM MARATHON COUNTY WAS TELLING ME ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES HE WAS HAVING IN FINDING SOME HIRED HELP.

ONE APPLICANT CAME IN AND SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE JOB, BUT DIDN'T LIKE TO GET UP EARLY, DIDN'T LIKE TO WORK OUTSIDE, AND HAD A PROBLEM WITH TAKING ORDERS.

MY FARMER FRIEND WAS TAKEN ABACK, BUT REALLY NEEDED THE HELP, SO HE ASKED "WHAT STARTING SALARY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?"

THE APPLICANT SAID, "IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$50,000 A YEAR, DEPENDING ON THE BENEFITS PACKAGE."

THE FARMER RESPONDED, "WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A PACKAGE THAT WOULD ALLOW YOU TO PICK YOUR OWN HOURS, GIVE YOU 5-WEEKS OF VACATION EVERY YEAR, AND SET YOU UP WITH A BRAND NEW CAR ... SAY, A RED CORVETTE?"

THE APPLICANT SAT UP STRAIGHT AND SAID, "WOW! ARE YOU KIDDING?"

MY FRIEND THE FARMER REPLIED, "YEAH, BUT YOU STARTED IT.))"

WELL, I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR WHAT THIS \$18.5 MILLION COMPLETED BYPASS WILL DO FOR THE SAFETY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE CITIES OF ABBOTSFORD AND COLBY ... AS WELL AS MARATHON AND CLARK COUNTIES AND THE ENTIRE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED IN 1987, I PROMISED THAT WE WOULD REBUILD HIGHWAY 29. WE KNEW BACK THEN A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY 29 WAS NEEDED TO SERVE AS AN ECONOMIC GENERATOR TO BRING NEW JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY TO CENTRAL WISCONSIN.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE ABBOTSFORD BYPASS IS A BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE NEW HIGHWAY. WHEN YOU DRIVE THIS NEW HIGHWAY...CITED BY AAA IN MAY, 1998, AS ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP 10 HIGHWAYS...YOU WILL QUICKLY COME TO ENJOY AND TRUST ITS CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY.

AND THANKS TO THE ABBOTSFORD BYPASS, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CITY BACK. YOU WILL HAVE YOUR MAIN STREETS BACK. TRUCKS AND TRAILERS WILL NO LONGER RUMBLE THROUGH YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND DRIVE PAST YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

THE STREETS OF YOUR LOVELY CITIES OF ABBOTSFORD AND COLBY WILL, AT LAST, BE TRAVELED ONLY BY THE PEOPLE OF YOUR COMMUNITY...AND THOSE WHO ARE HERE TO SHOP, TO WORK, AND TO PLAY.

TODAY'S CEREMONY AND THE OPENING OF THE NEW, \$18.5 MILLION ABBOTSFORD BYPASS PAVES THE WAY FOR IMPROVED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION AND HIGHWAY SAFETY FOR NORTHERN AND CENTRAL WISCONSIN.

HIGHWAY 29 IS ALREADY CARRYING TRAVELERS, TOURISTS, GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN WISCONSIN'S WEST COAST ON THE MISSISSIPPI AND ST. CROIX RIVERS NEAR MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL, AND THE STATE'S EAST COAST ON THE SHORES OF GREEN BAY AND LAKE MICHIGAN.

AS YOU CAN SEE, EVEN BEFORE THE HIGHWAY HAS BEEN COMPLETED, NEW BUSINESSES ARE SPRINGING UP ALONG THIS CORRIDOR FROM GREEN BAY TO ELK MOUND.

I REMEMBER IT WAS JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO I WAS HERE TO BREAK GROUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT THAT ALREADY HOSTS A SLEEP-IN AND WILL SOON FEATURE A TRAVEL PLAZA.

WHEN COMPLETED AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR, HIGHWAY 29 WILL BE 182-MILES OF FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY FROM CHIPPEWA FALLS TO THE CITY OF GREEN BAY WHERE IT LINKS UP WITH HIGHWAY 41 AND I-43.

IN THE YEAR 2005, WHEN THE \$450 MILLION HIGHWAY 29 PROJECT IS COMPLETED FROM GREEN BAY TO ELK MOUND IN DUNN COUNTY, IT WILL TIE INTO INTERSTATE 94, AND OFFER A STRAIGHT SHOT TO HUDSON AND THE TWIN CITIES.

THEN, "BLOODY 29" WILL BE NO MORE.

**IT WILL GIVE PACKER FANS IN CENTRAL WISCONSIN
THE FASTEST, SAFEST ROUTE TO FILL THE
METRODOME AND MAKE IT LAMBEAU FIELD WEST!
WE'LL SHOW THOSE VIKINGS WHO BELONGS ATOP
THE CENTRAL DIVISION...AND THEY DON'T WEAR
PURPLE!**

***(((WHICH REMINDS ME, WHY DOESN'T IOWA HAVE A
PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM? BECAUSE THEN
MINNESOTA WOULD WANT ONE AS WELL.)))***

**THIS BYPASS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW AND
WHY WISCONSIN IS THE GREATEST STATE IN THE
GREATEST NATION IN THE WORLD.**

**IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS ALONE WE ANNOUNCED
OUR STUDENTS HAVE THE HIGHEST S-A-T AND A-C-
T SCORES IN THE NATION...ON THE SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF OUR MONUMENTAL W-2
PROGRAM OUR CASH ASSISTANCE CASELOAD HAS
DIPPED BELOW 8,000 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN STATE
HISTORY...AND WE ANNOUNCED A \$624 MILLION
EXPANSION AT THE DAIMLER-CHRYSLER PLANT IN
KENOSHA.**

WISCONSIN IS WINNING BECAUSE WE ARE NOT AFRAID OF PROGRESS, WE EMBRACE IT. FROM REFORMING WELFARE TO GETTING TOUGH WITH CRIMINALS TO PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT THE MOST, WE HAVE EMBODIED OUR STATE MOTTO ... FORWARD.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO REST ON OUR LAURELS.

AS WE APPROACH THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, WE FACE A WORLD THAT WILL BE FILLED WITH NEW CHALLENGES, AND NEW REWARDS. THE ONLY WAY FOR CENTRAL WISCONSIN, AND THE ENTIRE STATE TO NOT ONLY SURVIVE, BUT THRIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY OF THE 21ST CENTURY IS IF WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITIES ... WHETHER IT BE OUR SCHOOLS, OUR ROADS, OR OUR FAMILIES.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO JOIN WITH YOU TODAY FOR THIS NEXT STEP IN MAKING A NEW, SAFE, JOB CREATING HIGHWAY 29 A REALITY. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S HISTORIC EVENT.