

GOOD AFTERNOON, AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY.

**WE ARE HERE TO RECEIVE THE RESULT OF NINE MONTHS OF
HARD WORK BY 32 DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO PUT IN COUNTLESS
HOURS ON A MONUMENTAL TASK THAT THE CYNICS WERE
QUICK TO INSIST WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.**

**AFTER YEARS OF CHANGING THINGS THAT COULDN'T BE
CHANGED, HOWEVER, WE IN WISCONSIN HAVE LEARNED TO
TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE CYNICS. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE
EASIEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE IS TO FIRST BELIEVE
THAT IT IS POSSIBLE.**

**WHEN WE IN WISCONSIN ARE FACED WITH OBSTACLES, WE
DON'T WONDER WHY THEY CAN'T BE OVERCOME; WE ROLL UP
OUR SLEEVES, GET TO WORK, AND SHOW THE WORLD HOW THEY
CAN BE OVERCOME.**

IT WAS ONCE SAID, "OBSTACLES ARE THOSE FRIGHTFUL THINGS YOU SEE WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE GOAL."

IN WISCONSIN, WE ARE FORTUNATE TO BE HOME TO A CIVIC-MINDED PROFESSOR WHO NEVER TAKES HIS EYES OFF OF THE GOAL, NEVER BACKS DOWN FROM A CHALLENGE ... ESPECIALLY WHEN IT MEANS TACKLING DIFFICULT ISSUES FACING THE STATE.

WHenever I approach Don Kettl with a new idea or a new project, he doesn't tell me why it can't be done. Instead, he comes up with countless ideas of how he's going to get it done. And then he does it.

THAT'S WHY I TURNED TO HIM WHEN I NEEDED A LEADER TO TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IN WISCONSIN.

AND THAT'S WHY THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT WHOM I WOULD TURN TO LAST SPRING WHEN I NEEDED SOMEONE TO HEAD A COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND MAKING CHANGES TO THE WAY GOVERNMENT WORKS IN WISCONSIN.

DON DESERVES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF CREDIT AND THE ADMIRATION AND THE RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN.

HE KNEW AT THE OUTSET THAT HE WAS TAKING ON THE TWO ISSUES THAT WERE THE MOST DIFFICULT ON WHICH TO REACH A CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE PARTIES – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND REINVENTING GOVERNMENT.

BUT HE STEPPED BOLDLY UP TO THE CHALLENGE. FOR THAT VERY REASON, WE NEED MORE DON KETTLERS IN THIS STATE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DON KETTLER.

(KETTL SPEAKS, PRESENTS YOU WITH THE REPORT. YOU SPEAK AGAIN AFTER HE'S DONE)

THANK YOU, DON, AND I ALSO WANT TO THANK EACH OF THE 31 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION WHO PUT IN LONG HOURS OVER THE LAST NINE MONTHS ON THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT.

THEY FACED CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND WERE THE FIRST GROUP TO TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT HOW STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE ORGANIZED IN WISCONSIN SINCE THE 1800S. THIS WAS NO SMALL FEAT.

I CHALLENGED DON AND THE COMMISSION MEMBERS NINE MONTHS AGO TO BE BOLD; TO COME UP WITH RADICAL IDEAS. THEY HAVE MET MY EXPECTATIONS ON MANY FRONTS.

WHEN I FIRST SPOKE TO THIS BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION IN APRIL, I PROMISED THAT THEIR WORK WOULD BE A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE UPCOMING BUDGET, THAT THEIR PROPOSALS WOULD BE A SPRINGBOARD TO THE FUTURE.

TODAY, I REITERATE THAT MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF DON KETTL AND THE COMMISSION WILL BE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET THAT WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT MONTH.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PANEL'S REPORT BE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS, EMBRACED BY BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES AND LOCAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THIS MUST NOT BECOME A PARTISAN ISSUE.

IT TRULY IS ONCE AGAIN TIME TO USHER IN A BIPARTISAN SPIRIT IN WISCONSIN.

OUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN
ACHIEVED WHEN WE FORMED STRONG
ALLIANCES AND WORKED TOGETHER ... FOR
THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL OF OUR CITIZENS.

WE MUST NOT SIMPLY SAY WE WILL WORK
TOGETHER; WE MUST ACTUALLY DO IT.

THE MOST DANGEROUS THING THAT CAN
HAPPEN IS TO LET POLITICS GET IN THE WAY
OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SERIOUS
EFFORT AT REINVENTING THE WAY
GOVERNMENT WORKS IN WISCONSIN. AND OUR
STATE'S FUTURE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO LET
THAT HAPPEN.

THANK YOU.

(ASK THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO GIVE
REMARKS).