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REMARKS: DOT SAFETY NEWS CONFERENCE
10:30 a.m. Governor's Conference Room

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

I HAVE A VERY GOOD FEELING THAT 1993 IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR FOR ALL OF US HERE IN WISCONSIN. ONE JUST HAS TO LOOK BACK AT OUR MANY SUCCESSES IN 1992 TO HAVE AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW FOR THE NEW YEAR.

ONE AREA OF SUCCESS BRINGS US HERE TODAY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN 1992, WISCONSIN RECORDED ITS LOWEST FATALITY RATE IN ITS HISTORY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ESTIMATES THAT OUR FATALITY RATE PER 100 MILLION MILES OF TRAVEL WAS 1.36 ... SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW THE NEXT LOWEST RATE, IN 1990 AND ONE OF THE LOWEST RATES IN THE COUNTRY.

IT ALSO MARKS THE MOST DRAMATIC ONE-YEAR PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN THE NATION.

OUR FATALITY COUNT OF 643 IS 19 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR'S YEAR-END TOTAL.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WISCONSIN HAS CONSISTENTLY IMPROVED ITS TRAFFIC SAFETY SINCE THE DAWN OF OUR FIRST STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, 80 YEARS AGO.

SEVERAL FACTORS LEAD TO OUR SUCCESSFUL YEAR:

OUR ROADWAYS AND VEHICLES ARE BEING BUILT WITH SAFETY AS A TOP PRIORITY.

BECAUSE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS AND TOUGH LAWS,

FEWER PEOPLE ARE DRIVING DRUNK AND MORE PEOPLE ARE
BUCKLING UP.

PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ENGINEERS,
BETWEEN FEDERAL STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HAVE PROVIDED
POWERFUL RESOURCES FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY ACROSS THE STATE.

MANY OF THE PARTNERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS SAFETY SUCCESS POSSIBLE
HAVE REPRESENTATIVES WITH US TODAY:

- THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
- OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY
- THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SUCH AS THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY AND
CORPORATIONS THAT IMPLEMENTED EMPLOYEE SAFETY PROGRAMS
- AND, OF COURSE, THE MANY CONSCIENTIOUS DRIVERS ACROSS THE
STATE.

I CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN
MAKING WISCONSIN ROADWAYS SAFER FOR ALL OF US.

(slight pause)

OF COURSE, AS WE REACH THE IMPORTANT MILESTONE TODAY WE MUST
REMEMBER THE THOUSANDS OF WISCONSINITES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON
OUR ROADWAYS.

THE CHALLENGE OF CREATING SAFER HIGHWAYS AND ROADWAYS FOR
WISCONSIN TRAVELERS IS STILL VERY MUCH BEFORE US.

BUT AS WE BEGIN 1993, LETS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AND MAKE THIS
YEAR EVEN SAFER FOR ALL OUR TRAVELERS.

THANK YOU.

(take questions)

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
Gubernatorial Speeches