

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU, SPEAKER RICHARD, PRESIDENT PRO-TEM SHIELDS, JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, LT. GOVERNOR KINDER, STATE OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND MEMBERS OF MY CABINET. WELCOME, HONORED GUESTS AND MY FELLOW MISSOURIANS. IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AND I AM BLESSED TO HAVE WITH ME MY WIFE, GEORGIA ANDN. [APPLAUSE] AND OUR TWO SONS, AND JEREMIAH AND WILL. [APPLAUSE] ONE YEAR AGO, AS WE GATHERED IN THIS VERY ROOM, AND MASSIVE ICE STORM STRUCK SOUTHERN MISSOURI. MILES OF POWER LINES WENT DOWN, PLUNGING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE INTO BITTER COLD AND DARKNESS. I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT I SAW IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS FOLLOWING. EVERYWHERE I WENT, PEOPLE OF EVERY COLOR AND CREED WERE JOINING HANDS TO HELP THEIR NEIGHBORS. THEY BROUGHT BLANKETS AND HOME COOKED MEALS. THEY CAME WITH CHAIN SAWS AND PICKUP TRUCKS. THEY TURNED SCHOOL GYMS AND CHURCH BASEMENTS INTO HAVENS OF WARMTH AND SAFETY. THEY DID NOT ASK HOW ANYBODY VOTE IT. THEY DID NOT CARE WHO WAS RICH OR POOR. THEY CAME TOGETHER IN A CRISIS BECAUSE, MY FRIENDS, THAT IS WHAT THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI DO. [APPLAUSE] THAT IS A POWERFUL LESSON FOR US HERE TONIGHT. THE WORST OF TIMES BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN US. WHEN THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI JOIN HANDS AND WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. [APPLAUSE] THAT MAKES ME PROUD OF OUR STATE, PROUD TO BE A MISERY SOURIAN, AND PROUD TO BE YOUR GOVERNOR. MY HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE PEOPLE OF HAITI. THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE CAN HELP. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT MO. GOV AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO. FROM THE MOMENT I TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, I ACCOCCA'S MY ENERGY ON ONE THING -- I HAVE FOCUSED MY ENERGY ON ONE THING, TURNING THIS ECONOMY AROUND. WE MUST KEEP THE JOBS WE HAVE AND CREATE THOUSANDS MORE. WE MUST BUILD A GRANITE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND WE MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. [APPLAUSE] NOT SURE WE WILL NEED A SECOND ON THAT MOTION. I WILL REVIEW SOME OF THE HARD- ONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE YEAR BEHIND THIS. I WILL ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES AHEAD OF US, HIGHLIGHT THE OPPORTUNITIES WE MUST TAKE NOW TO SPUR JOB GROWTH, AND LAYOUT MY LONG-TERM STRATEGY TO CREATE A VIBRANT FUTURE FOR OUR STATE. BEFORE I GET TO THE HEART OF MY ECONOMIC MESSAGE, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE BRAVE RESIDENTS AND ALL -- IN ALL BRANCHES OF OUR MILITARY WHO HAVE LEFT THEIR FAMILIES IN OUR CARE TO FIGHT OR RUN THE WORLD. WITH US TONIGHT IS SPECIALIST MICHAEL THOMAS, A CITIZEN SOLDIER WITH THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD. HE WAS SERVING WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD'S AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN AFGHANISTAN WHEN HIS CONVOY WAS HIT BY A SUICIDE BOMBER IN MARCH OF 2009. AS A GUNNER ON HIS VEHICLE, SPECIALIST THOMAS SUSTAINED A DIRECT HIT FROM THE BLAST. FOR THE SACRIFICE, HE WAS AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART. AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD, I COMMEND YOU. YOU REPRESENT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN WHO HAS EVER FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM AND LIBERTY IN EVERY TIME AND ON EVERY FIELD OF BATTLE. A SPECIALIST THOMAS, ON THEIR BEHALF, PLEASE STAND AND EXCEPT THE GRATITUDE OF YOUR STATE. AND ACCEPT -- AND ACCEPT THE GRATITUDE OF YOUR STATE. [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU. AMERICA'S FINEST RIGHT IN THE HEARTLAND. EVERY ACTION WE TOOK IN 2009 AND EVERY ACTION WE WILL TAKE IN 2010 IS SET AGAINST A BACKDROP OF GLOBAL FORCES THAT CONSTRAIN OUR NATION'S ECONOMY. THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE COMPLEX WORLD WE LIVE IN. IT WILL NOT DETERMINE MISSOURI'S DESTINY. WE WILL. [APPLAUSE] OUR MOST PRESSING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES CREATING JOBS, TAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, AND BALANCING THE BUDGET. THEY ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE SIDETRACKED BY PARTISAN BICKERING. THAT BETRAYED THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE. WE NEED TO TAKE A LONG VIEW AND BE WISE STEWARDS OF THE BLESSINGS THAT MAKE MISSOURI SO SPECIAL. OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR GOD-GIVEN NATURAL RESOURCES. IN EVERYTHING WE DO THIS YEAR, WE MUST PUT OUR DIFFERENCES ASIDE AND PUT MISSOURI FIRST. [APPLAUSE] I AM AN OPTIMIST BY NATURE AND NOTHING I HAVE SEEN THIS YEAR HAS DIMINISHED MY OPTIMISM. MY VISION OF THE FUTURE IS COLORED BY ABIDING FAITH IN THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI. I WANT THE LITTLE GIRL WHO CRACKED THE CODE OF CANCER TO BE A PRODUCT OF A MISSOURI SCHOOL. I WANT THE BOY WHO INVENTS A CLEAN FUEL TO HEAT OUR HOMES AND POWER CARS TO BE A NATIVE SON. I WANT THOUSANDS OF MISSOURIANS USING TECHNOLOGY WE CAN ONLY DREAM OF TODAY. THAT IS THE FUTURE I SEE FOR MISSOURI. [APPLAUSE] TO REACH IT, I WANT MISSOURI TO BE FIRST IN JOB CREATION, FIRST IN EDUCATION, FIRST IN INNOVATION, FIRST IN QUALITY OF LIFE, AND FIRST IN LEADING THIS NATION TO RECOVERY. [APPLAUSE] EVERYWHERE I HAVE TRAVELLED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, I HAVE HEARD THE SAME REFRAIN FROM BUSINESSES LARGE AND SMALL. GIVE US THE TOOLS. HELP US TRAINED WORKERS. WE WILL DO THE REST. LAST YEAR, ARE BIPARTISAN JOBS BILL HELP PUT MORE OF THESE JOB TOOLS IN PLACE. WE RAMP UP FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES THAT OFFER GOOD JOBS AND HEALTH INSURANCE. WE FOCUSED STATE RESOURCES ON TARGETED, FAST TRACK TRAINING PROGRAMS TO PREPARE WORKFORCE READY TO STEP INTO THOSE JOBS. LET ME GIVE YOU JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF OUR SUCCESS. THERE WAS EXPANSION HERE RATHER THAN CONDUCTING A. THERE IS A HUGE FACILITY BEING CREATED TO FILL PRESCRIPTIONS. THE JOBS WILL PAY AN AVERAGE OF \$40,000 PER YEAR. A GROCERY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OWNED BY WARREN BUFFETT IS BUILDING A LARGE FACILITY THAT WILL CREATE 250 FULL-TIME JOBS WITH GOOD WAGES. IF WARREN BUFFETT IS BULLISH ON MISSOURI, THAT IS GOOD FOR ALL OF US. [APPLAUSE] SMITH ELECTRIC VEHICLES IS BUILDING A NEW PLANT IN KANSAS CITY USING OUR QUALITY JOBS INCENTIVES, CREATING 200 JOBS AND PUMP MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. THE LIST GOES ON. WHILE WE WERE HELPING LARGE EMPLOYERS, WE DID NOT FORGET ABOUT SMALL BUSINESSES THAT ARE IN MAINSTAY OF THE ECONOMY. WE ELIMINATE THE FRANCHISE TAX FOR 16,000

SMALL BUSINESSES LIKE KELLY FURNITURE SO THEY CAN EXPAND AND ADD JOBS. WE ALSO START A SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM. ONE OF THOSE LOANS WENT TO A COMPANY IN EUREKA TO MAKE EDUCATIONAL GAINS. SHE WAS WORRIED SHE COULD NOT FILL THE HOLIDAY ORDERS. SHE USED HER LOAN TO BUILD UP INVENTORY AND HIRE ANOTHER EMPLOYEE. PLEASE WELCOME ONE OF THE SHOW ME STATE'S BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS, BETH DANIELS FROM EUREKA. [APPLAUSE] JOB CREATION INCENTIVES ONLY SUCCEED IF THERE ARE TRAINED WORKERS READY TO STEP INTO THOSE JOBS. WE UPPED OUR INVESTMENTS IN TRAINING PEOPLE. LAST FALL, WE BEGAN IMPLEMENTING ARE CARING FOR MYSSISSOURIANS INITIATIVE TO PREPARE PEOPLE FOR FEELS LIKE OPTOMETRY AND DENTISTRY. OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WE WILL BE ENROLLING AT LEAST 1300 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN THESE PROGRAMS AT OUR COLLEGES AND PREPARING THE STUDENTS TO MEET OUR STATE'S CRITICAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS. WE ALSO PUT MORE MONEY INTO PROGRAMS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO HELP DISLOCATED WORKERS GET BACK INTO THE JOB MARKET FAST. IT IS CLEAR OUR KEY BUSINESS INCENTIVES AND WORK FORCE INVESTMENTS ARE BEARING FORWARD, BUT MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. THAT IS WHY MY TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY THIS YEAR IS MY 2010 JOBS PLAN. IT CONTAINS THREE KEY COMPONENTS. FIRST, WE MUST LEVERAGE EVERY TOOL IN TACTIC TO HELP LOYAL BUSINESSES THRIVE. SECOND, WE MUST OUTRUN AND OUTFOX ARE RIVALS TO RECRUIT NEW, HIGH-TECH COMPANIES TO MISSOURI. THIRD, WE MUST TRAIN A WORKFORCE THAT IS READY TO ROLL AND SECOND TO NONE. THE FIRST INITIATIVE IS MY LOYALTY PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES ALREADY HERE. THEY WILL GO TO THE HEAD OF THE LINE FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO EXPAND PAYROLLS. WE WILL GIVE A BUMP TO BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN YEARLONG FOR THAN FIVE YEARS. AFTER ALL, THESE ARE THE COMPANIES WHO HAVE GIVEN GENERATIONS OF MISSOURIANS STEADY PAYCHECKS. THEY PAY THE TAXES THAT BUILT OUR ROADS, OUR SCHOOLS, AND OUR PARKS. GIVEN THE NEED TO CREATE JOBS QUICKLY, HELPING BUSINESSES ACCELERATE THEIR GROWTH JUST MIGHT BE THE SMARTEST INVESTMENT WE CAN MAKE WITH THE FASTEST RETURN. [APPLAUSE] AS YOUR GOVERNOR, I WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH HARD TO RECRUIT NEW BUSINESSES TO MISSOURI. MAKE NO MISTAKE, I HAVE A COMPETITIVE STREAK. THAT BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND PART OF MY JOBS PLAN. THE MISSOURI SCIENCE AND INNOVATION REINVESTMENT ACT. MISSOURI IS ALREADY HOME TO 1000 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE COMPANIES. THIS IS AN AREA WHERE WE CAN ADD MUSCLE TO EXISTING STRENGTH. WE WILL REINVEST A SMALL PART OF THE TAXES PAID BY EXISTING FIRMS IN MISSOURI TO RECRUIT NEW ONES. IT WILL CREATE A STABLE POOL OF FUNDS TO CREATE ACCESS TO CAPITAL AND IT WILL HELP TURN SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS INTO COMMERCIAL SUCCESSES. WE WANT OUR BIOTECH COMPANY TO GROW BECAUSE THAT CREATES MORE JOBS. JUST AS IMPORTANT ARE THE COROLLARIES OF THAT GROWTH. A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND COLLABORATION, A FORUM WHERE BRILLIANT MINDS FIND KINDRED SPIRITS, A HOTBED OF IDEAS THAT SPARKED AN OVATION AND A NEXUS OF RISK AND REWARD WHERE START-UPS THRIVE. SYMBIOTIC IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS SYNERGY WORKS TO OUR ADVANTAGE. IT IS A GLOBAL LEADER IN ANIMAL HEALTH CARE. A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, ITS PRESIDENT PAUL HAYES DECIDED TO MOVE THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FROM SAN DIEGO TO KANSAS CITY. HE SAYS THERE ARE FIVE REASONS WHY HE BROUGHT HIS BUSINESS TO MISSOURI. I AM NOT GUESSING THE FIRST IS THE WEATHER. HIS FIRST IS THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGY IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMPANIES IN THE BOOMING ANIMAL HEALTH CLINIC. SECOND, THE PROXIMITY TO ITS CUSTOMERS. THIRD, FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FROM MISSOURI. FOURTH, MISSOURI'S OUTSTANDING WORK ETHICS. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A GRADUATE FROM THE CLASS OF 1983. ALL I CAN SAY IS WELCOME BACK AND GO TIGERS. [APPLAUSE] HE WILL HELP RECRUIT MORE COMPANIES LIKE SEMIOTICS TO MISSOURI. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO DO. THAT BRINGS ME TO THE THIRD PART OF OUR PLAN. IT IS A FOCUS ON MISSOURI'S GREATEST ASSET, ITS PEOPLE. TRAINING FOR TOMORROW IS A NEW INITIATIVE TO TRAIN RESIDENTS FOR GROWING FIELDS, LIKE LAB TECHS, NURSING AIDES, SURVEYORS, AND MECHANICS. IT GIVES COMMUNITY COLLEGES THE FLEXIBILITY TO HAVE TRAINING PROGRAMS WHERE THERE IS HIGH DEMAND AN INSURER'S THERE ARE ENOUGH WORKERS TO MEET THAT DEMAND. I HAVE PROPOSED A 20% INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR CUSTOMIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES RIGHT NOW. [APPLAUSE] BY MATCHING INDUSTRY'S NEEDS WITH TRAINING PROGRAMS, MORE MISSOURIANS WILL BE ABLE TO TRAIN MORE QUICKLY. THERE IS NO PLACE WHERE THE LINK BETWEEN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IS STRONGER. [APPLAUSE] I WAS AT THE COLLEGE NOT LONG AGO WHEN THE PRESIDENT THERE TOLD ME IF SOMEONE WANTED WORK, THEY SHOULD GO TO THE DEAN'S OFFICE TODAY. THEY CAN SIGN UP FOR A CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, HEALTH CARE, OR DRAFT AND DESIGN. IF THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE IT THEIR ALL, HE WILL HELP FIND THEM A JOB. SO TONIGHT, I CALL ON YOU TO SHOW THAT SAME SPIRIT. LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND PASS THIS 2010 JOBS PLAN. [APPLAUSE] THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE EAGER FOR WORK WHO HAVE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE AND FIRST RATE TRAINING FROM UNCLE SAM. I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR VETERANS. WHEN I WAS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN LAST SUMMER, THE TROOPS ASKED ME TO QUESTIONS, FIRST, HOW IS PUJOLS DOING? SECOND, WILL THERE BE A JOB FOR ME WHEN I GET HOME? TONIGHT, I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF SHOW ME HEROES, OUR NEW JOBS INITIATIVE THAT IS JUST FOR OUR VETERANS. THE LEADER OF THIS EFFORT IS OF THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD. HE WILL BE CALLING ON EMPLOYERS OVER THE STATE, TELLING THEM ABOUT OUR DISCIPLINE, DEDICATED, HARD-WORKING VETERANS. WHEN A JOB IS OPEN, I WANT A VETERAN'S RESUME ON TOP OF THE STACK SO THEY GET FIRST CRACK AT AN INTERVIEW. [APPLAUSE] I AM ASKING EVERY EMPLOYER IN THE STATE TO STEP UP AND SHOW THAT MISSOURI HIRES SPECIALISTS.

[APPLAUSE] FOUR VETERANS WHO ARE READY TO RETIRE, MISSOURI IS THE FIRST PLACE TO BOOK BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO PHASE OUT THE STATE INCOME TAX ON MILITARY PENSIONS UNTIL THEY ARE SIMPLY \$0. [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE] VETERANS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN GET TAX RELIEF THIS YEAR. WE ARE ALSO HELPING HOME BUYERS, PUTTING \$15 MILLION INTO AN EFFORT TO GIVE THE INDUSTRY A BOOST AND HELP MORE MISSOURIANS BEFORE THE AMERICAN DREAM. IF YOU WANT TO BUY A HOUSE IN 2010, YOUR STATE WILL PICK UP YOUR PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FIRST YEAR, UP TO 1000 TO UNDER \$50. WE ARE OFFERING 5000 IS IN TAX RELIEF IF YOU MAKE THAT HOUSE MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT. THIS WILL HELP PUT THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN NEW HOMES, A JUMP- START THE MARKET COME AND GIVE OUR TRADESMEN THE GREEN JOBS THEY SO DIRE LEAD -- DIRELY NEED. [APPLAUSE] IN THIS TOUGH ECONOMY, WE HAVE TO PROTECT MISSOURIANS FROM PAYDAY LOAN COMPANIES. [APPLAUSE] HARD TIMES ARE LIKE FERTILIZER FOR PAY LENDERS. THEY POP UP OVERNIGHT LIKE MUSHROOMS. FOR PEOPLE CAUGHT IN A BAD SITUATION, MAYBE THEY'RE LOST THEIR JOBS OR THEIR CAR BROKE DOWN. -- CAR BROKE DOWN, PALIN EARS MIGHT SEEM LIKE A GOOD OPTION. THE AVERAGE PAY LOAN WAS \$290 IN MISSOURI AT 430% INTEREST. EVEN AT THOSE EXORBITANT RATES, YOU KNOW HOW MANY LOANS WERE REPORTED? CLOSE TO 3 MILLION. MISSOURI LAWS ARE NOT TOUGH ENOUGH TO HELP PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THIS DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF DEBT. WE NEED TO PASS MEANINGFUL PAID A LOAN REFORM THIS YEAR. - - MEANINGFUL PAYDAY LOAN REFORM THIS YEAR. [APPLAUSE] BY ANY MEASURE, 2009 WAS A ROUGH YEAR. IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THE DOWNTURN HURT EVERYBODY'S POCKETBOOK. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS UNDER THE NATIONAL AVERAGE BUT STILL TOO HIGH. A LOT OF FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WERE OUT OF WORK. TO MANY LOST THEIR HOMES, FARMS, AND BUSINESSES. MANY SAW THEIR BENEFITS WHITTLE AWAY. THE IMPACT KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF STATE GOVERNMENT. REVENUE FELL IS STAGGERING \$778 MILLION SHORT OF PROJECTIONS. THE BIGGEST ONE-YEAR DROP IN MISSOURI HISTORY. THE STATE GOVERNMENT DID WHAT EVERY FAMILY HAD TO DO. WE TIGHTEN OUR BELTS, WHICH STRETCHED EVERY DOLLAR, AND WE REINED IN SPENDING. WE DID NOT BELLYACHE ABOUT IT. WE JUST DID IT. [APPLAUSE] . WE REDUCED OUR UTILITY BILL BY 6%. I HAD TO KUTCH \$600 MILLION AT OF THE STATE BUDGET, BUT I DID SO. -- I HAD TO CUT \$600 MILLION OUT OF THE STATE BUDGET, BUT I DID SO. IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY, WE'RE NOT DONE YET. STATE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CREATING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS FOR THIS CENTENNIAL OR THAT SPECIAL INTEREST. SOME DO GOOD WORK, WHILE OTHERS DO NOT DO MUCH OF ANYTHING. THEY JUST KEPT GROWING AND GROWING, UNTIL THEY TURNED INTO BUREAUCRATIC SUBSIDIES. IN AN EFFORT TO ROOT OUT WASTE AND INEFFICIENCY, I HAVE ALREADY ELIMINATED 13 OF THESE BOARDS AND 2700 POSITIONS AND I CALL ON THE LEGISLATURE TO GET RID OF -- AND TO ORDER 70 POSITIONS. AND I CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO CUT MORE. [APPLAUSE] WORKING TOGETHER, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID MELTDOWNS WE ARE SEEING IN OTHER STATES. MASSACHUSETTS AND NEVADA JACKED UP THEIR SALES TAX. ARIZONA IS ON THE VERGE OF CLOSING THEIR STATE PARKS AND SELLING THEIR SENATE HOUSE BUILDING. NEVADA'S GOVERNOR HAS PROPOSED CUTTING K THROUGHco 12 FUNDING BY \$700 MILLION. THIS IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IN MISERY. - - IN MISSOURI. OUR EARLY ACTION AND SOUND ACTION HAVE KEPT THE AAA CREDIT RATING. WE HAVE SAVED THE TAXPAYERS MILLIONS IN TAX PAYERS. IT SIGNALLED THAT IT IS WHERE SMART MONEY GOES TO GROW. WE'RE ONE OF THE NATION'S PREMIER FINANCIAL RATINGS FIRMS, MAKING US ONE OF THE TOP STATES TO LEAD THE NATION'S RECOVERY. BY BALANCING THE BUDGET WITHOUT RAISING TAXES, MAKING HARD CHOICES, AND MANAGING DEBT, MISSOURI IS IN A STRONG POSITION TO ACCELERATE OUT OF THIS DOWNTURN, BUT WE NEVER COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT WITHOUT THE STEAD FASTNi BIPARTISANSHIP LAST YEAR. I WANT TO THANK ALLcoNi OF YOU IN THIS ROOMco FOR STANDING TOGETHER WITH US. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [APPLAUSE] WE MUST SUMMON THAT SAME BIPARTISAN SPIRIT FOR THE HARD WORK THAT LIES AHEAD. THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN OTHER STATES, WE STILL FACE SO BRING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES. REVENUE PROJECTIONS FOR FISCAL 2011 ARE AUSTERE. WE WILL HAVE LESS REVENUE THAN WE DID IT IN 2009. WE NEED THE PATIENCE AND GOOD FAITH OF EVERY PERSON IN THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ALL 163 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WORKING AS A TEAM TO MANAGE OUR LIMITED RESOURCES TO MOVE MISSOURI FORWARD ON A PATH TO PROSPERITY. WE MUST MOVE OFF BOARD ONCE AGAIN. [APPLAUSE] WHILE WE WERE TAKING STEPS TO GET IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC RETURNS, WE ALSO NEED TO BE BANKING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO SECURE OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH. INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND THAT VIBRANT AND THE BEAUTY OF OUR STATE. IN OUR RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS A HIGH-STAKES ENTERPRISE. [APPLAUSE] WHERE STUDENTS EXCEL, WE HAVE A DEDICATED TEACHERS TO THANK. [APPLAUSE] ALL ACROSS OUR STATE, OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE STRONGER FOR THE COMMENDABLE WORK TEACHERS DO, AND I IN MY JUST TALKING ABOUT THE WORK IN THE CLASSROOMS. FROM THE FIRST BILL ON MONDAY MORNING TO THE LAST BELL ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE EXTRA HOURS, GIVING STUDENTS EXTRA HELP WITH MATH OR ENGLISH, AND THE WEEKENDS THAT TEACHERS DEVOTE TO 8 P. AND BAND COMPETITIONS. TEACHING IS NOT JUST A JOB, IT IS A CALLING. CRITICIZING PUBLIC EDUCATION IS EASY AND CHEAP. EDUCATING CHILDREN IT IS HARD AND TAKES A SERIOUS INVESTMENT. [APPLAUSE] IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO TELL OUR TEACHERS HOW MUCH WE VALUE THEM. WE MUST SHOW THEM. THAT IS WHY MY BUDGET THIS YEAR HAS CONTINUED FUNDING FOR OUR CAREER LADDER. OUR TEACHERS HAVE EARNED IT. [APPLAUSE] LAST YEAR WE PROVIDED RECORD FUNDING FOR CLASSROOMS EVEN IN THE FACE OF SEVERE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES. OTHER STATES LIKE KANSAS AND GEORGIA ARE RESTRICTING EDUCATION FUNDS ALREADY APPROPRIATED. LET ME BE CLEAR, EVERY PENNY APPROPRIATE BY THE LEGISLATURE LAST YEAR WILL GO TO OUR CLASS TERMS

THIS YEAR. -- WILL GO INTO OUR CLASSROOMS THIS YEAR. OUR BUDGET CHALLENGES NEXT YEAR ARE NO LESS DAUNTING. UNTIL THE REVENUE PICTURE CHANGES, MOST FOLKS IN GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND GETTING THE JOB DONE WITH FEWER RESOURCES IS NECESSARY, BUT BUDGETS ARE ABOUT PROTECTING PRIORITIES. AS WE DISCUSSED MY BUDGET, AND WHERE AND HOW MUCH TO CUT, I TOOK ONE THING OFF THE TABLE - K THROUGH 12 CLASSROOMS. [APPLAUSE] OUR CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS. THEIR EDUCATION IS TOO IMPORTANT. EVEN IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, I RECOMMEND INCREASED FUNDING AT A RECORD LEVEL FOR OUR CLASSROOMS. [APPLAUSE] OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION MUST EXTEND BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL. FOR TOO LONG, STEEP TUITION HIKE HAVE PUT COLLEGE AVERAGE FOR MANY MISSOURI FAMILIES. ONE FAMILY HAD THREE KIDS IN COLLEGE AT THE SAME TIME, STILL DO. THAT IS A BIG PRICE TAG. BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE VALUE A COLLEGE DEGREE HAD IT AND WERE MILLING -- AND WERE WILLING TO MAKE A SACRIFICE. THEY WONDERED HOW THEY WOULD MANAGE TO PAY ALL THREE TUITION BILLS. I SURE, WE FROZE TUITION AT ALL TWO- AND FOUR YEAR PUBLIC COLLEGES AND OUR STATE. FOR THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES, THAT WAS A GODSEND. PLEASE WELCOME THESE OUTSTANDING PARENTS, TOM AND SANDY. [APPLAUSE] WE ARE NOT DONE. I CALL ON YOU TO JOIN ME AND LEAD THE NATION BY EXAMPLE. IN SUPPORTING ANOTHER TUITION FREEZE THIS YEAR. THAT WOULD MEAN MISSOURI STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY ANY MORE IN TUITION AND FEES TWO YEARS IN A ROW. [APPLAUSE] I WANT TO BRING COLLEGE WITHIN REACH FOR EVEN MORE MISSOURI STUDENTS BY ADDRESSING A BLATANT INEQUITY IN THE EIGHT-PLUS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. IT PAYS FOR HIGH-SCHOOL KIDS TO KEEP UP THEIR GRADES, GIVE BACK, AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. TODAY, ONE-THIRD OF THE KIDS IN OUR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS CANNOT EVEN APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS BECAUSE THEIR SCHOOLS ARE NOT OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS A-PLUS SCHOOLS. THAT IS NOT FAIR. THE SCHOLARSHIPS SHOULD BE OPEN TO EVERY HARDWORKING PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AND MISSOURI, AND I COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN THIS VERY YEAR. [APPLAUSE] OUR CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP IN A HIGH-SPEED DIGITAL WORLD. JTQT WATCH THEM TEXTING THEIR FRIENDS. ACCESS TO THE FAST LANE ON THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY, WITHOUT IT, WE WILL BE ON A DUSTY DE CORPS. THIS YEAR WE ARE COMPETING TO BRING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO EVERY PART OF OUR STATE, FROM THE URBAN CORE TO THE LAST MILE OF THE ROAD. FOR SMALL BUSINESSES LIKE STRAWBERRIES BAR-B-QUE, THAT MEANS INSTANT ACCESS TO CUSTOMERS FROM JAMAICA TO JAPAN. A COLLEGE STUDENT COULD TAKE COURSES ON HER LAPTOP, A CANCER SPECIALIST COULD READ IT MEDICAL RECORDS FROM THE DOCTOR. WE WILL COMPETE FOR EVERY POSSIBLE DOLLAR TO TURN THIS PROJECT INTO REALITY TO HELP MISSOURI STAY COMPETITIVE. YOU BET WE WILL. [APPLAUSE] THERE IS AN UNDENIABLE CORRELATION BETWEEN A STATE'S COMPETITIVENESS AND THE COST OF HEALTH CARE. LAST YEAR WE WERE POISED TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS ON HEALTH CARE. THE SENATE VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO MISSOURI AT NO ADDITIONAL COST FOR TAXES. [APPLAUSE] UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROPOSAL FAILED ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SESSION. THIS YEAR, HAVING NOTICED THERE HAS BEEN A LITTLE TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE, FROM HALLS OF CONGRESS TO TOWN HALL MEETINGS ACROSS OUR COUNTRY -- [APPLAUSE] CONGRESS IS DEBATING SIGNIFICANT HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, BUT IF THAT PASSES, IF THAT LEGISLATION PASSES, IT IS OUR JOB TO SHOW STEADY BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP, TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATE. [APPLAUSE] THERE IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT HEALTH CARE ISSUE THAT DEMANDS OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, AUTISM. [APPLAUSE] THIS SPECTRUM OF DISORDERS IS DIAGNOSED IN ONE OUT OF 110 CHILDREN, AND THE SOONER IT IS TREATED, THE BETTER THEIR LIVES WILL BE. MILES AND LAURA HAVE A CHILD WITH AUTISM, AND THEY HAVE BEEN AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATES NOT JUST FOR THEIR SON BUT FOR ALL CHILDREN WITH AUTISM. PLEASE WELCOME HERE -- PLEASE WELCOME THEM HERE THIS EVENING. [APPLAUSE] BLAKE'S FATHER TELLS AND MOVING STORY ABOUT HEARING HIS SON SPEAK HIS FIRST WORDS AT THE AGE OF THREE. REACHING THAT MILESTONE TOOK MONTHS OF INTENSIVE THERAPY. IT WAS AN ENORMOUS VICTORY FOR BLAKE, SUMMED UP RATHER NICELY IN HIS FIRST WORD -- "MINE." WHEN THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY REFUSED TO PAY FOR HIS THERAPY, THEY WILLINGLY TOOK A HIT BECAUSE THEY KNOW THERE IS A CRITICAL PERIOD OF TIME TO TURN ON THE LIGHT IN THE DEVELOPING MIND -- IN THE DEVELOPING MIND OF A JOB WITH AUTISM. IF THAT CRITICAL TIME PASSES, THE LIGHT GOES OUT. CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SHOULD NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR PARENTS TO COME UP WITH THE CASH OR INSURANCE COMPANIES TO GROW A CONSCIENCE. THEY NEED OUR HELP NOW. [APPLAUSE] FOR MONTHS, I HAVE STOOD WITH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN LEGISLATURES -- LEGISLATORS ON THIS AND LAID OUT A KEY BILL THAT WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THESE CHILDREN'S LIVES. THIS IS THE YEAR WE STAND UP TO INSURANCE COMPANIES. THIS IS THE YEAR WE MAKE THEM COVER ALL TO SOME. THIS IS THE YEAR WE TURN ON THE LIGHT FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN, THIS VERY YEAR. -- THIS IS THE YEAR WE MAKE THEM COVER AUTISM. THIS IS THE RETURN ON THE LIGHT FOR THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN, THIS VERY YEAR. [APPLAUSE] THERE IS ANOTHER YOUNG MAN HERE TONIGHT I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT. HIS NAME IS TRAVIS, AND HE IS UP IN THE BALCONY TONIGHT WITH HIS FAMILY. BOTH OF HIS LEGS WERE CRUSHED IN A CAR ACCIDENT CAUSED BY A DRUNK DRIVER. HIS MOTHER ALMOST DIED OF HER INJURIES. THEY TOLD ME THEY FEEL LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. TRAVIS IS 11 NOW. HE HAS HAD FIVE OPERATIONS ON HIS LEGS SO FAR AND HE WILL NEED THREE MORE. BUT HE IS MAKING STEADY PROGRESS. PLEASE WELCOME THIS BRAVE YOUNG MAN. TRAVIS. [APPLAUSE] A MAN BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE CAR THAT STRUCK HIM AND HIS FAMILY WAS CONVICTED OF DRUNK DRIVING PREVIOUSLY, BUT THERE HE WAS AGAIN, NOT DRUNK AGAIN, COMING AT THEM THE WRONG WAY ON AN EXIT RAMP. -- HE WAS DRUNK AGAIN. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO EFFECTIVELY PROSECUTE AND PUNISH DRUNK DRIVERS AND REMOVE THEIR

LICENSES AND GET THEM OFF THE ROADS BEFORE THEY SHATTER MORE LIVES. I URGE YOU TO SEND THAT BILL TO THAT MY DESK -- I URGE YOU TO SEND THAT BILL TO MY DESK THIS YEAR. [APPLAUSE] AND THE LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING MISSOURI'S ECONOMY AND ENHANCING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE MUST TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF NATURAL HERITAGE. HUNTING, FISHING, HIKING, CAMPING ARE PART OF OUR WAY OF LIFE. YOU BET THEY ARE. [APPLAUSE] WHEN I WAS A KID, I DID A LOT OF FISHING WITH MY DAD. WE WILL GET UP EARLY, TOSS OUR GEAR IN THE BACK OF OUR STATION WAGON, AND HEAD DOWN TO THE SPRINGS. I WOULD BE HIP DEEP IN COLD WATER BEFORE THE MIST HAD ROLLED OFF THE RIVER. I LEARNED MANY HOURS ON HOW TO READ THE RIVER, TIME FLIES, AND FISH FOR TROUT. I HOPE THEY WILL PASS THAT ALONG TO THEIR CHILDREN. WE NEED TO GET MORE KIDS OFF THE COUCH, AWAY FROM VIDEO GAMES, BACK AT A WORSE. -- BACK OUTDOORS. [APPLAUSE] BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME LESSONS ONLY NATURE CAN TEACH. TONIGHT, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF A MISSOURI STATE PARKS DISTRICT. WE WILL PUT MORE THAN 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK THIS SUMMER AND ARE 85 STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES. YOU BET WE WILL. Nd&Mig mh&Ac7Ni IETP(V @ PASSED ON+NiN9inr US BY PEOPLE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY VISION AND GENEROSITY. IT EVEN IN THESE LEAN TIMES, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THESE TREASURES AND PRESERVE THEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. THE YOUTH CORPS WILL LEARN TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND FROM THE GROUND UP, PICKING UP TRASH, CUTTING BRUSH, BUILDING TRAILS. THEY WILL ALSO BE AN OUTDOOR AMBASSADORS IN MY EFFORT TO REDUCE A 10-YEAR DECLINE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL STATE PARKS. YOU BET. [APPLAUSE] MORE VISITORS WILL ALSO PUMP MORE MONEY INTO OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY FOR FAMILIES THAT LOVE THE OUTDOORS. THERE IS JUST NO BETTER DEAL AROUND. NOW WE JUST HAVE TO SPREAD THE WORD. IF YOU LIKE TO KAYAK OR FISH, BIRD WATCH OR A MOUNTAIN BIKE, COME TO MISSOURI FIRST. [APPLAUSE] OUR LAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR ECONOMY. OUR FARMERS HAVE FED THE NATION AND COULD FEED A TON IN GREEK -- THEY CAN FEED A HUNGRY WORLD. WE'RE TRYING TO EXPAND EXPONENTIALLY. WE HAVE TO SELL GLOBALLY AND BUY LOCALLY. THIS YEAR WE WILL SELL A RECORD AMOUNT OF CORN -- CORN AND SOYBEANS TO TAIWAN. THAT IS GOOD FOR OUR FARMERS. [APPLAUSE] HERE AT HOME, EVERY FAMILY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SHARE THE BOUNTY OF THE LAND, INCLUDING FRESH, HEALTHY PRODUCE. THAT IS WHY WE WILL PROMOTE MISSOURI'S LOCALS FARMERS' MARKETS AND ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO START COMMUNITY GARDENS ALL ACROSS THE STATE. [APPLAUSE] I HAVE FOCUSED THIS EVENING ON OUR SHARED OBLIGATIONS. CREATING JOBS, MANAGING THE BUDGET, HOLDING DOWN TAXES. I HAVE TALKED ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER, STRONGER, AND HEALTHIER. I HAVE TALKED ABOUT MAKING STRATEGIC LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN OUR FUTURE. BUT WE HAVE ONE MORE PIECE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- ETHICS. IT IS TIME WE GAVE THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI A STATE GOVERNMENT IS AS HONEST AND STRAIGHT-SHOOTING AS THEY ARE. [APPLAUSE] LAST YEAR, WE DEMOLISHED THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM LONG USED FOR AWARDED LICENSES. WE CREATED A MORE EFFICIENT SYSTEM WITH TRANSPARENT PROCESSES, AND IT WILL PRODUCE REVENUE THAT WE CAN PUT TO GOOD USE. YEAH. [APPLAUSE] TWO YEARS AGO, THE LEGISLATURE PASSED A BILL TO PAY FOR COLLEGE OF FAMILIES OF VETERANS KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IN COMBAT. JUST ONE PROBLEM -- NO FUNDING. LAST YEAR THE LEGISLATURE PASSED A BILL TO PAY SURVIVORS' BENEFIT TO THE FAMILIES OF FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS, STATE TROOPERS, AND DEPUTIES KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. SAME PROBLEM -- NO FUNDING. WITH THE \$800,000 THE NEW OFFICE WILL PRODUCE, WE CAN FINALLY DO RIGHT BY THESE HEROES AND FAMILIES AND FOUND BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS THIS YEAR. -- AND FUND BOTH OF THESE PROGRAMS THIS YEAR. [APPLAUSE] coGOOD GOVERNMENT REALLY DOES PAID DIVIDENDS. BUT WE CAN DO MORE. WE CAN PASS MEANINGFUL ETHICS REFORMS THIS YEAR. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GOOD PROPOSALS OUT THERE. TO MY MIND, MEANINGFUL REFORM MUST DO IOUR BASIC THINGS -- FOUR BASIC THINGS. ONE, STOPPED SEEKING BACK DOOR DONATIONS TO COMMITTEES. NO. 2, BAN SOMEONE FROM WORKING FOR A POLITICAL CONSULTANT FOR ANOTHER OFFICE HOLDER. 3, SHUT THE REVOLVING DOOR BETWEEN THE LEGISLATURE AND THE LOBBYISTS FOR GOOD. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, SET STRICT LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. [APPLAUSE] niMISSOURI VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY MANDATED THEM. AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, I FOUGHT FOR THEM. THE U.S. SUPREME COURT UPHELD THEM. IT IS JUST THE RIGHT THING TO DO. [APPLAUSE] IN THE LAST YEAR, I HAVE LOGGED THOUSANDS OF MILES TRAVELING OUR GREAT STATE. I HAVE HAD COFFEE WITH SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ON MAIN STREET AND CHEWED THE FAT WITH CATTLEMEN. I HAVE VISITED WITH COMBAT VETERANS AND COLLEGE KIDS. SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SCIENTISTS. I HAVE MET HARD-WORKING FAMILIES STRUGGLING TO PAY THEIR BILLS AND LAID OFF FACTORY WORKERS WITH NO HEALTH INSURANCE. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR JOBS. ABOUT HOW THEY'RE GOING TO PAY THE MORTGAGE OR THEIR MEDICAL BILLS. THEY ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT RETIREMENT. WHAT IF ANYTHING WILL BE LEFT FOR THEIR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS? BUT NOT ONCE, NOT ONE SINGLE TIME DID I HEAR ANYONE SAY, "POR MI." -- "POOR ME. " NOT ONCE DID ANYONE TELL ME, GOVERNOR, I GIVE UP. TIMES MAY BE TOUGH, BUT PEOPLE FROM MISSOURI ARE TOUGHER. REMEMBER THE LESSON OF THE ICE STORM. OUR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN ONE ANOTHER. IF WE CAN HANG TOUGH A LITTLE LONGER, WORK TOGETHER, STAY ON THE PATH, WE WILL KEEP CLIMBING AND CLIMBING AND CLIMBING, UNTIL WE SEE THE BRIGHT HORIZON. BECAUSE MISSOURI'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT. EVEN NOW, THERE ARE GLIMMERS OF RECOVERY. HEALTH-CARE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE STARTING TO HIRE AGAIN. AT THE HOME SALES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION ARE PICKING UP. CONSUMERS ARE CAUTIOUSLY STARTING TO SPEND. THESE FIRST WARM RAYS ARE A SIGN THAT OUR HARD WORK AND DISCIPLINE ARE PAYING OFF FOR OUR PEOPLE OF MISSOURI. AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHETHER WE VOTE RED, BLUE, OR PURPLE, MOST OF US WANT

THE SAME THINGS. A STATE THAT IS COMPETITIVE AND PROSPEROUS. A STATE WHERE HARD-WORKING PEOPLE CAN FIND A DECENT JOB, BUY A HOUSE, AND RAISE A FAMILY. A STATE BRIMMING WITH OPPORTUNITIES, WHERE OUR CHILDREN CAN SINK ROOTS AND RAISE FAMILIES OF THE FUTURE. OR HEALTH CARE AND FUNDING IS AFFORDABLE. WHERE EVERY CHILD GETS A FIRST- RATE EDUCATION. A STATE WHOSE BEAUTY BECKONS US TO HUNT, BITE, AND FISH. A STATE WHERE NEIGHBORS HELPED NEIGHBORS. -- A STATE WHOSE BEADY BECKONS US TO HUNT, BIKE, AND FISH. WILL WE MAKE PROGRESS THIS YEAR? YES, WE WILL. IT CAN WE WORK FASTER, IF WE WORK TOGETHER? ABSOLUTELY. [APPLAUSE] SO TONIGHT, LET'S SWEAR AN OATH TO THE PEOPLE OF STATE WE SO DEARLY LOVE, AND TO EACH OTHER, THAT NOTHING WILL STAND IN THE WAY OF REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY AND IMAGINING OUR FUTURE. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE 2010 THE YEAR THAT WE PUT POLITICS SECOND AND PUT