

Good morning. Thank you for coming.

I'm proud today to introduce my new commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations: Julien Carter.

Julien's appointment is the result of a thorough search that we started last November, when Commissioner Karen Carpenter announced her retirement.

Since then, we've heard from 156 applicants, which we narrowed to 34. We whittled that down to 17, who were interviewed by telephone, and then our Search and Screening Committee interviewed eight candidates in person. They sent their final three to me.

Special thanks to the Search and Screening Committee. Members Jean Keffeler, Dick Anfang, Anne Barry, Clayton Benish, Steve Minn and Corrine Shepherd did a great job, and I want to make sure they get plenty of credit. Thank you.

I picked Julien Carter for a lot of reasons.

I was impressed by his background—he's worked in both the public and the private sectors. I know how important that is.

We have a workforce shortage here in Minnesota, and I know Julien is going to be creative when it comes to helping solve that problem. This man knows Human Resources.

One of my challenges to Julien is to make Minnesota an "employer of choice"—especially among the younger generation.

I could tell when I met him that Julien has a lot of energy, which he'll need for this job, and I really like his common sense. You all know I stress that in my administration, and Julien is definitely a common sense kind of guy.

He's from Missouri, but we're not going to hold that against him.

When I make a cabinet appointment, I go after the best person for the job no matter where I have to look, and in this case, I found him two states to the south.

So let me welcome the new Commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations, Julien Carter.