

- Ko-nee-chy-wah (hello).
- My connection to Japan goes way back
- Minnesota's connection to Japan also goes way back: 100 years ago
railroad baron James J. Hill established a shipping company with a destination in Japan.
- Now Japan is Minnesota's #2 Trading Partner – with nearly \$900 Million in exports last year.
- That's why I went to Japan as my first trade mission as Governor in 1999. It was an unforgettable experience
- Japanese are the number one tourists to Minnesota – with about 60-thousand every year. Why not? Thanks to Northwest Airlines, Mall of America, golf courses, etc . . .
- Airy-gotto (Thank you).

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