

Thanks, commissioner.

Last week we kicked off “Explore Minnesota Now” when we met with business leaders to discuss business travel.

This week we are encouraging Minnesotans to travel and take vacations in our home state. This campaign is all about reviving our state’s tourism economy.

I also want people from our region to visit Minnesota, so next week I will visit:

- Sioux Falls, South Dakota;
- Des Moines, Iowa; and
- Chicago, Illinois

I will encourage our neighbors to “Explore Minnesota Now.”

As you can see here today, Minnesota has a lot to offer. I am especially grateful to the resorts, hotels, bed & breakfasts, convention and visitor’s bureaus and other attractions that are offering special deals—thank you.

And it’s great to see these kids from Angle, Minnesota here today. Kids, as you can see, when you do something good you get a ten-fold return! I’m glad you could be here.

The Minnesota Office of Tourism has done a great job of putting this event together with the help of the Tourism Task Force, the hospitality industry and the Mall of America.

I’ll be broadcasting my weekly radio show beginning at 11:00, and you’re invited to stay and watch.

Thank you.