



Thank you, General.

I am very proud of the men and women of the Minnesota National Guard. As their Commander-in-Chief, I have used their skills to help the citizens of Minnesota during times of emergency.

I have also been involved in their departure ceremonies when they've left Minnesota because their country has called them to duty in another part of the world.

Every time, I have been impressed with their professionalism, their spirit, and their dedication to protecting our freedoms.

But that commitment comes with a cost – A cost to the National Guard member's family, their pocketbooks, and to their employers.

That's why I'm happy to recognize the efforts of Minnesota employers who have gone that extra step in relieving their employees of the financial burden they face when called to active duty in the National Guard and Reserves.

By supporting your employees, you and your companies are demonstrating loyalty and patriotism for the state of Minnesota, and our country.

I think it's also important to note that the companies here today are representative of a much larger group of Minnesota businesses helping to support their employees serving in the military.

At this time, as the Chief Executive Officer for the State of Minnesota, I would like to sign a statement of support for the State of Minnesota employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve Forces.