

THANK YOU, JERRY (Larsen, president of Gateway Industrial Park and Northern States Power), FOR THAT WARM CHIPPEWA VALLEY INTRODUCTION.

IT IS CERTAINLY GREAT TO BE BACK IN THE BEAUTIFUL CHIPPEWA VALLEY WITH SO MANY WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND GOOD FRIENDS ...

- **FRIENDS LIKE BILL NIELSEN (Eau Claire City Council president)**
- **HOWARD LUDWIGSON (Eau Claire County Board chair)**
- **KEITH GLASSHOF (Eau Claire Industrial Development president)**
- **LISA STARK (Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce chair)**
- **WAYNE FORTUM (Hutchinson Technology president and CEO)**
- **AND MIKE RICHARDS (Hutchinson Technology plant manager)**

I WANT TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUNDBREAKING OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE, THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY, AND THE ENTIRE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

(((BEING HERE TODAY REMINDS ME OF A STORY ABOUT MY GOOD FRIEND HOWARD LUDWIGSON.

AS IS USUALLY THE CASE, HOWARD WAS RUNNING LATE, SO HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME BY ROLLING THROUGH A STOP SIGN IN THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR.

GUESS WHO WAS WAITING AROUND THE CORNER? SHERIFF RON CRAMER.

SHERIFF CRAMER PULLS HOWARD OVER, WALKS UP TO THE CAR WINDOW AND ASKS HIM IF HE KNOWS WHY HE'S BEEN PULLED OVER.

"NO," SAID HOWARD.

"YOU FAILED TO STOP AT THE STOP SIGN," EXPLAINED SHERIFF CRAMER.

"BUT I SLOWED DOWN!"

SHERIFF CRAMER SHOOK HIS HEAD. "YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP."

"BUT I DID SLOW DOWN!" HOWARD PROTESTED.

SHERIFF CRAMER SHOOK HIS HEAD AGAIN. "YOU HAVE TO STOP, THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED STOP SIGNS."

HOWARD ... BEING A SCHOOLTEACHER IS ALWAYS USED TO GETTING THE LAST WORD IN ... SAID, "STOP, SLOW DOWN, WHAT'S THE BIG DIFFERENCE?"

SHERIFF CRAMER PULLS OUT HIS BATON.

"LET ME SHOW YOU. I AM GOING TO START HITTING YOU WITH MY BATON. YOU LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT ME TO SLOW DOWN OR STOP!")))

WAYNE AND MIKE, LOOKING BACK AT HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY'S PAST SUCCESS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL, I CAN NEVER SEE YOU STOPPING OR EVEN SLOWING DOWN.

HUTCHINSON TECHNOLOGY ... H-T-I FOR SHORT ... IS TRULY THE WORLD LEADER IN PRECISION MANUFACTURING, AND I AM PROUD THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO CALL WISCONSIN HOME TO SOME OF YOUR FACILITIES.

IN MARCH 1995, H-T-I DECIDED TO BUILD A FACILITY HERE IN NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN. THAT PLANT NOT ONLY PROVIDED JOBS, IT HELPED REPAIR THE MALAISE THE COMMUNITY WAS FEELING EVER SINCE UNIROYAL LEFT.

**THAT WAS JUST A START. IN APRIL 1996, H-T-I
BEGAN CONSTRUCTING ON A SECOND PLANT.**

**TODAY, H-T-I EMPLOYS ALMOST 2,500 PEOPLE IN
THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY, IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF LIFE FOR THOUSANDS OF WISCONSINITES.**

**BECAUSE OF THE JOBS H-T-I HAS BROUGHT TO
THE COMMUNITY, MORE WISCONSIN FAMILIES WILL
BE ABLE TO LIVE OUT THE AMERICAN DREAM ... TO
BUY A NEW CAR OR HOME ... PLAN FOR
RETIREMENT ... OR A CHILD'S EDUCATION. ...AND
INVEST IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR FUTURE.**

**THE SUCCESS OF H-T-I AND THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY
IS INDICATIVE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE ENTIRE
WISCONSIN ECONOMY. WISCONSIN IS NOW THE
JOB CENTER OF THE NATION.**

**I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT MORE PEOPLE ARE
WORKING TODAY THAN AT ANY TIME IN STATE
HISTORY.**

**WE'RE CELEBRATING A 30-YEAR LOW IN
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AND THE STATE HAS
CREATED MORE THAN 640,000 GOOD PAYING JOBS.**

WHILE THE NATION HAS LOST MORE THAN 462,000 MANUFACTURING JOBS SINCE 1987, WISCONSIN HAS CREATED NEARLY 100,000.

WISCONSIN IS ENJOYING ITS LONGEST PERIOD OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN GENERATIONS. THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT FOR OUR BOOMING ECONOMIC SUCCESS.

AS WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM, H-T-I'S NEW COMMITMENT WILL HELP GUARANTEE THAT THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE "SILICON VALLEY OF THE NORTH."

THIS NEW 240,000 SQUARE FOOT, \$13 MILLION ADDITION WILL BRING THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE EAU CLAIRE PLANT TO MORE THAN 700,000 SQUARE FEET, MAKING IT H-T-I'S LARGEST FACILITY. AND BY THE TIME THEY ARE DONE, H-T-I WILL EMPLOY 3,500 WISCONSINITES.

LET ME REPEAT THAT ... 3,500 GOOD PAYING JOBS FOR THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY.

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN WAS A STRONG PARTNER IN H-T-I COMING TO WISCONSIN.

IN 1994, I INSTRUCTED WHAT WAS THEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ... NOW THE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ... TO PROVIDE A \$1 MILLION MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND \$3 MILLION IN TAX INCENTIVES FOR H-T-I. THIS IS STILL THE LARGEST- EVER STATE ASSISTED JOB CREATION PROJECT.

EVEN WITH THE STATE'S HELP, H-T-I MAY NOT HAVE COME TO WISCONSIN IF IT WASN'T FOR EAU CLAIRE'S LOCAL OFFICIALS, WHO COURTED H-T-I SINCE 1987. THEIR PERSEVERANCE PLAYED A CRUCIAL PART IN THIS ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORY.

THE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS COULD HAVE CONVINCED H-T-I TO BUILD THEIR FIRST PLANT IN WISCONSIN, BUT THEY MAY NOT HAVE EXPANDED HERE IF IT WASN'T FOR THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES. THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT DAY IN AND DAY OUT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO WISCONSIN'S REPUTATION AS THE EPITOME OF THE MIDWESTERN WORK ETHIC.

H-T-I ... THE STATE ... LOCAL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES ALL WORKING TOGETHER. THAT'S WHAT TEAMWORK IS ALL ABOUT.

AS OUR STATE PREPARES TO ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY, I AM CONFIDANT THAT WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO BOOM BECAUSE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO TEAMWORK.

**WHETHER WE ARE BUILDING A STATE-OF-THE-ART
FACTORY ... REFORMING A FAILED WELFARE
SYSTEM ... OR DEVELOPING A WORLD CLASS
EDUCATION SYSTEM ... WE WILL DO IT TOGETHER,
IN PARTNERSHIP.**

**REMEMBER, IF EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD,
SUCCESS WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE AND THANK
YOU FOR YOUR TEAMWORK AND FOR ALLOWING
ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GROUNDBREAKING.**