

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 388

Introduced by Kolowski, 31.

WHEREAS, Jeff Slobotski launched his Omaha-based blog, Silicon Prairie News, in 2008 at age 30 to highlight Midwestern innovation. Silicon Prairie News soon morphed into a full news site covering the Midwest tech scene and is dedicated to connecting, engaging, and supporting entrepreneurs, creators, and investors; and

WHEREAS, while traveling across America as a sales rep for Truist, a social responsibility-powering tech company, Jeff regularly visited the country's startup hubs. Intrigued by his experiences, Jeff began chronicling his travels on a personal blog. Impressed by the burgeoning startup scene in Omaha and the Midwest, Jeff was inspired to create a new site to exclusively cover startups in Omaha and the Midwest and Silicon Prairie News was born; and

WHEREAS, initially the site published just a few stories each week, usually short profiles of Omaha-based companies. Five years later Jeff has built the site into a robust platform with constantly updated content, developed a webcast, hired a team of eight full-time employees, and opened additional offices in Des Moines and Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, following his online success, in 2009 Jeff launched the Big Omaha conference which brings together more than 700 entrepreneurs from more than 30 states as well as a handful of countries around the globe each year to share their knowledge and push ideas forward; and

WHEREAS, Jeff was named one of Omaha's Ten Outstanding Young Omahans by the Omaha Jaycees and was recently highlighted as one of the "Up and Comers" in Forbes Magazine. Jeff also received the Midlands Business Journal's "Forty Under 40" award, and is a member of the Young Entrepreneur Council; and

WHEREAS, Jeff is heavily involved as a volunteer in community organizations, including Packs of Promise, a nonprofit group he founded to assist Omaha's homeless during the winter. Jeff also serves on the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers; and

WHEREAS, Jeff is a 1996 graduate of Millard West High School and one of the first class of students enrolled under the leadership of Principal Dr. Rick Kolowski. Jeff looks back on his high school experience as a pivotal part of shaping him into who he is today and giving him the opportunity to think and dream bigger; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Nebraska, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon the dedication of people like Jeff Slobotski who use their considerable innovation, heart, and resources to push the state and nation forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes Jeff Slobotski as an outstanding leader and innovator dedicated to championing the amazing talent that exists in Nebraska.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Jeff and Molly Slobotski and their family.