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our ability to produce we must be ever mindful of the need to preserve our natural resources; that is why I am proposing an increase in both the Resources Development Fund and Soil and Water Conservation Fund. Education at every level has an important role to play in this proposal. Our renewed commitment to education in 1988 strengthened schools across the state. We will continue that commitment this year, including support for job training and financial management programs administered by the University, state, and technical community colleges. Also, I am recommending additional funding for the Department of Education's "Distance Learning" program and increased appropriations for satellite interconnecting systems. This ensures quality educational resources will be available to every classroom in every corner of our state. Modern technology can and will have a dramatic and positive impact on our students. The delivery of medical services in some parts of our state is in jeopardy. This problem deserves our urgent attention. I have asked Dr. Gregg Wright, the Director of the Department of Health, to convene a conference of health professionals, administrators, and lay people who will critically re-examine this issue and develop a list of options that the state may consider. In addition to these initiatives rural renaissance will depend on the ability of communities to attract new capital. The private sector, as well as existing state programs such as the Research and Development Authority, can be a source of capital for new business ventures. I am optimistic that real progress in the months and years ahead can be made. But it will require direction and leadership and it is my intention to be actively involved. Over the next year, I expect to participate personally in a series of sessions with communities throughout Nebraska. The goal of these meetings will be twofold: The first is to work with local leadership in a realistic assessment of their community's strengths and weaknesses and develop a work plan for that community. The second is to find ways to remove barriers to intergovernmental and inter-community cooperation and assistance. We must make certain that no resource goes unused. Because these initiatives cut across so many departments and agencies, I am proposing that a new position be created in the Governor's Policy Research Office to coordinate the entire program. This will avoid duplication and overlap and insure the most efficient and effective use of state resources. This rural emphasis has a high priority because it is imperative that we move promptly and aggressively to make certain our smaller communities share in the economic well being of Nebraska. I have heard this message from the prairie. The