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highways. You can expect to find these four priorities--education, economic vitality, efficiency in government, and the protection of families--woven into my decisions as Governor. They will serve as my compass as I work with you to chart a future course for our state. That brings me full circle, back to the opportunity that lies before us. I believe it is time for us to engage in a statewide conversation with our citizens about the future of Nebraska. While we are taking care of present day needs, we must prepare for our future by asking ourselves the following questions: Do we have a twenty-first century government infrastructure that matches a twenty-first century economy? I ask you to work with me to establish the kind of infrastructure that will be needed to deliver local and state government services, healthcare, social services and education decades from now. Are we preparing our children for twenty-first century work opportunities? Is the classroom of the future a virtual classroom or a classroom with four walls? We must ensure that our children receive a technologically advanced and challenging education. How do we make government more efficient? Are there well-intended government programs that began many years ago which are no longer essential? I propose that the most important priorities for our state be identified and funded first. Do we have a tax structure that encourages investment in future job opportunities, or is it focused on job opportunities of the past? I appreciate the challenges surrounding this particular issue, but I believe that now is the time to tackle them. Nebraskans understand the implications of having a virtually stable population that is aging. They know that we must grow our economy or we simply will not be able to afford the services that we currently expect from government. More importantly, we need to grow our economy to ensure that our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to find fulfilling employment right here in Nebraska. It is time for Nebraska to adopt a twenty-first century business climate that attracts new, dynamic, and growing businesses of the future. I want our state to be the best state in the country, a state where opportunities truly are endless. Our citizens are ready for change. The question is whether we, in government, are ready to make the necessary changes to meet future challenges. I say that it is time to put Nebraska's future interest above any past special