



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

June 20, 2009

Dear Nippon Minnesota Association Members:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my greetings as you gather to celebrate your ties to the great state of Minnesota and its flagship university – the University of Minnesota. Like many of you, First Lady Mary Pawlenty and I are proud graduates of the University of Minnesota. Although Mary and I cannot be with you in person today, please know that we are with you in spirit to celebrate the longstanding and important connections between Minnesota and Japan.

As all of you who have spent time in Dinkytown know, Minnesotans cherish the University of Minnesota and the role it plays in strengthening our communities and transforming the world. Ever since its establishment in 1851, even before Minnesota became a state, the University of Minnesota has met the challenge of providing a world-class education. Today, the university is well on its way to becoming one of the top research universities in the world and its alumni continue to reach great heights in every field of business, academia, and government across the United States and the world. Your gathering in Japan today is yet another example of the global reach and impact of the University of Minnesota.

I especially wish to extend my gratitude to those of you who are originally from Japan and chose to venture abroad to study at the University of Minnesota. Your courage to travel so far, not to mention your hearty spirit to brave our winter weather, is much appreciated. You chose wisely and I have every confidence that your education from the University of Minnesota will continue to serve you well.

Thank you again for your commitment to fostering ties between Minnesota and Japan through the Nippon Minnesota Association. Please know that your efforts are valued by me and the citizens of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor