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MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

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April 14, 2008

Exploring Innovation Celebration
April 14-18, 2008
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Friends:

Please accept my best wishes for a successful *Exploring Innovation in Community Development Week*.

I commend the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for designating April 14-18, 2008 to honor an important part of economic development and job creation. Revitalizing neighborhoods and business districts sends a clear and direct message to entrepreneurs and employers that a community is ready to move forward, create opportunities and face the challenges that come with growth.

I am pleased to report that my administration has been a strong partner with communities throughout Missouri, including the City of St. Louis, as they have developed bold new ideas for community revitalization and job growth. Since I took office in January 2005, the Missouri Department of Economic Development has provided more than \$10 million in assistance to help improve the quality of life in the City and to turn unused and forgotten buildings into new homes and new jobs for St. Louis. We have had the privilege of working directly with visionary developers and entrepreneurs to make this progress and as a result of these partnerships throughout the state, we have seen the creation of more than 90,000 new jobs in just three years.

I regret that my schedule did not allow me to personally join you this evening. However, thank you for your unwavering commitment toward the betterment of St. Louis and in recognizing the outstanding community developments completed and underway in the city. Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable celebration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Blunt", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Blunt