

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

June 11, 2010

Minnesota Economic Development Association  
250 2nd Ave S Suite 106  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Friends,

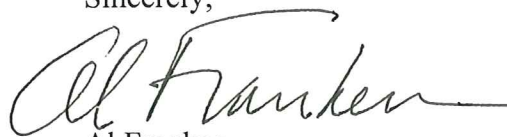
I am honored to extend my congratulations to all of those being honored today: Dr. Dennis Kim; Morris Goodwin, Jr.; Deb LaBonne; Terry Brown; Xcel Energy and the Minnesota Ballpark Authority. I am sorry I cannot join Minnesota Economic Development Association members today as you celebrate these honorees and recognize achievements within the MEDA community. However, I send my best wishes from Washington, DC.

All of today's honorees work and dedication to increase the numbers of business leaders of color in our community is truly commendable. Minnesota's economy will continue to grow and prosper due to the commitment of these businesses, organizations and individuals to foster a diverse workforce and diverse businesses across the state.

I would also like to recognize the Minnesota Economic Development Association's leaders, staff and volunteers. MEDA performs an essential role in helping entrepreneurs of color create sustainable businesses, as well as providing valuable assistance to businesses seeking and performing government contracts. Every business and organization here today strives for excellence. I am confident that because of the work you are doing and your demonstrated commitment to the community, we are on the right course to achieve a strong Minnesota economy.

I applaud the important work of MEDA and the achievements of all the award recipients. Again, congratulations to all of the honorees on this impressive achievement.

Sincerely,



Al Franken  
United States Senator