

Solar Car Reception/Friday, July 20

Greetings to distinguished guests and colleagues
Most of all, welcome home to our Sunrunner team

As far as I am concerned this is as good as it gets
in my job.

For an engineer like me, your accomplishment is the equivalent
of making Phi Beta Kappa, winning the Rose Bowl
and NCAA Basketball Championship all rolled into one.

We are all very proud of you and your achievement.
You have brought honor to the University of Michigan
and to yourselves.

You exemplify the very best of the Michigan spirit.
the willingness to go all out--to be the very best.

You have done this not just by crossing the finish line first --.
although that is certainly a great joy to everyone here.

But you have done much more than win a difficult race.
You have demonstrated the qualities of character and commitment
that we think of when we think of Michigan.

First you dared to dream a difficult dream--
some would have said a near impossible one.

You have put your education and skill to use
to serve important human purposes.

You gathered 120 students from across the University
and built a real team

to carry out the largest student project of its kind in our history.

Working together, you translated your dream into reality.
--designing and building the Sunrunner--

showing such extraordinary vision, dedication, intellectual achievement and ability,
plus plain old fashioned hard work and long hours
to create this car.

And it worked!

What a moment that must of been
When you saw the car in motion for the first time.
You caught your first glimpse of the wonders of the future then
the one you yourselves have already begun to create.
Because the new power you have harnessed in this project
is not just the power of the sun but something just as awe-inspiring
That is the power of the human mind and heart--the power of ideas and spirit.
to change the world

And finally you showed the faith--the grit --and the wit--
it takes to stick with and win this grueling race
--11 days and nearly 1,800 long hard miles--.

We have all been watching you and the other racers
Pulling for you and marveling at you all.

Now it I am delighted to share in the pride of this moment.
I thank you for for that.

I also want to thank the many sponsoring corporations

for helping to make this event possible.

What a wise investment this has been....

An investment not just of money but of faith

faith in these students and in the future they will build.

In a time when heroes seem to be in too short supply

We have here 120 of them united in one splendid effort.

It's a great day for Michigan!

Now as the team begins preparations for the World Solar Challenge
in Australia.

Congratulations, good luck and Go Blue!