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Bill Signing/Enhanced Oil Recovery

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Good Morning. Let me first simply say "Welcome" to Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, State Rep. Aric Nesbitt, (and others? Check with Greg), and all of our guests this morning.

You are in a WMU Department of Geosciences facility that literally holds the vital geologic records for the entire State of Michigan. This 27,000 square foot facility is home to the Michigan Geological Repository for Research and Education that has been serving our state for more than 30 years. And more recently, it has become home to the Michigan Geological Survey--a move that was made possible thanks to a 2011 legislative vote. That decision is one for which we are profoundly grateful. These two entities, used together allow our researchers to map, evaluate and research Michigan's critical geological resources--like untapped oil reserves.

This is quite simply an amazing resource for Michigan's citizens and one that plays a critical role in the legislation being signed today. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to acknowledge Dr. Mohammed Sultan, chair of our Department of Geosciences, and John Yellich, director of the Michigan Geological Survey. (Pause for applause.)

There are two critical staff members who could not be here today. Dr. William Harrison and his wife, Linda Harrison, who have been the driving forces behind the extraordinary collection of geological samples you see shelved here--some half a million linear feet of solid rock core samples from all over our state.
This treasure trove of data will be crucial in the success of the legislation about to be signed. Now, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome to the podium, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. A lifelong Michigander, Lt. Gov. Calley was a community banker before being elected a legislator in 2007. After serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives representing Ionia County, he was sworn in as the nation's youngest lieutenant governor on New Year's Day 2011. He has been an active and highly visible lieutenant governor, and one who works in a bipartisan way to tackle issues of importance. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.