#### Thoughts, ideas and ponderings

Growing businesses is like growing any plant. Someone or something always has to sow the seed.

#### **Common recommendations**

- Cultural setting
- Climate
- Creative class
- Tax incentives
- Enterprise zones
- Reduce burdensome regulations
- Low cost energy
- Research university nearby



# TREAT YOUR ENTREPRENEURS LIKE KINGS



## Solstice Outdoors

#### Katie and Dave Gellatly

#### SBA Emerging Small Business Award 2006



# H Window Company LLC



# Lake Superior Chapter WIN Advisory Board



# Inventors and Entrepreneurs Clubs







#### Rural electric cooperatives

"Many [rural electric] cooperatives exist in the rural United States, and were created by the New Deal to bring electric power and telephone service to rural areas, when the nearest investor-owned utility would not provide service, believing there would be insufficient revenue to justify the capital expenditures required."

Source: Wikipedia

## Interstate highway system



# This is the next highway.....

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JUDSON C. EDWARDS

#### DIGITAL DELIVERANCE



DRAGGING RURAL AMERICA, KICKING AND SCREAMING, INTO THE INFORMATION ECONOMY

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"The capability of information technology to make physical location less important has the potential to allow rural areas throughout the United States and the world to participate in the global economy without regard to geographic location." (Turner, 2002)

#### Broadband users by country



# China: 116 million (March 2011)



United States: 83 million (June 2010)

#### Broadband users by state

Rank/Name

District of Columbia
Illinois
Ohio
Ohio
Michigan
Minnesota
Iowa
Iowa
Louisiana
Mississippi
Wisconsin

Speed (DL 3+/UL 0.7+)

100% 99.3% 99.3% 99.1% 98.5% 96.7% 96.4% 93.8% 88.2%













#### Who are you attracting now?

- People who like to be independent but connected
  - Resourceful and independent individuals
- People that love outdoor recreation and being close to nature
  - Outdoor Life
- People that would like to be self-sufficient
  - Grow your own food, fuel and create your own business



#### Creating a Theme-Based Regional Culture

- Can you create an inexpensive incubator area in your "Technology Park"?
- Can you develop educational and training sessions like these?
  - "growing your own energy"
  - "growing, storing and selling your food"
  - "bring your ideas and let's build your business"
  - "boot camp for entrepreneurs"







# JUST DO IT.







#### **Commander Pat Dillon**

The NW WEN office will be vacant due to Pat Dillon's mobilization. Dave Linz, SE Regional Director, will be handling calls and emails.



Martin and

# University of Wisconsin

# THANK YOU

