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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Renata B. Hesse	FROM: Brian Sweeney
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NOTES/COMMENTS:

THE SWEENEY GROUP*Management and Development*

January 22, 2001

Ms. Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001
FAX: 202.616.9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I have spent the last three years as Director of Planning and Economic Development for the City of Saint Paul for Mayor Norm Coleman. My main job was to ensure that we maintained, expanded, and attracted businesses and jobs to our state's Capitol city. We were able to do this because we were able to instill confidence in the private market by keeping taxes low and creating private sector incentives for development. I've recently returned to the private sector as a developer and am very cognizant of the fragile nature of our economy and how it will impact jobs and investment.

The U.S. is officially in a recession clearly exacerbated by the tragic events of September 11th. Minnesota is suffering as a direct result of this downturn evidenced by the job layoffs at 3M, Northwest, Fingerhut, American Express and several other corporations in the Twin Cities and throughout the state. In the face of these troubling economic developments, one positive occurrence has taken place of late: the settlement of Microsoft.

I believe that by settling the case, our nation and the nine states in particular, will be able to focus on the real issues of our troubled economy. The settlement was the right thing for America and the right thing for Minnesota. I think the fairness of the settlement was clear from the fact that Microsoft agreed to share its intellectual property and create uniform price lists for the top 20 computer makers.

I, and many of my colleagues in the corporate and financial community, support this settlement. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my position on this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Sweeney
President

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