An intense long duration winter storm brought periods of freezing rain, snow, and strong winds to the region. A localized band of heavy snow and wind gusts of 45-55 mph occurred in the area on Saturday, December 28 and it was accompanied by high winds.

Floods, but Nebraska has experienced tremendous growth in 2019 by building on four pillars of prosperity: developing our people, cutting red tape, providing relief, and expanding trade opportunities. In 2019, Nebraska created new jobs in industries ranging from manufacturing to technology. Nebraska's manufacturing sector generated $100 billion for the first time since the Great Depression of 2007-2009. We saw the resurgence of Nebraska manufacturing firsthand in October during a tour of our state’s builders and makers. United Industries in Columbus and Collegiate Industries in Lincoln are just a few examples of growing manufacturing companies here in Nebraska.

Despite challenges in agriculture over the past year, we have helped to grow major opportunities for our farmers and ranchers. In October, Costco celebrated the grand opening of its poultry operation in Fremont. This $250 million facility with around 100 farm families supplying the processing of chicken barns in Nebraska. In addition, corn and soybean growers are supplying the introduction of 2,000 acres of sorghum by Costco’s plant every week. The incredible tech growth our state experienced in 2019 has reinforced our reputation as the Silicon Prairie. In January, LinkedIn announced a major expansion in Nebraska. In 2007, LinkedIn opened its first office in Omaha with fewer than 10 people. By the time it is fully open, LinkedIn expects to employ 1,000 people in Omaha.

This was also a banner year for data centers in Nebraska. In June, Facebook opened a data center campus in Papillion that will exceed $4 billion of investment by the time it’s completed. In August, Compute North broke ground on a data center campus just outside of Ord. In October, Google also broke ground on a major data center just down the road from Facebook’s location in Sarpy County. In September, Lincoln’s City Council approved initial plans for yet another large data center at a site just northwest of the 56th Street exit of Interstate 80. To equip Nebraska for these great jobs, we grew the number of registered apprentice (DTP) to more than 100 for our farmers and ranchers.

Despite the red tape, we’ve controlled spending so we can cut taxes and save time for State customers and consumers. In addition to cutting red tape, we’re controlling spending so we can cut taxes and save time for State customers and consumers.