Good morning, and thank you all for being here with us.

I just had a productive meeting with Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and Speaker Straus, the first of the weekly breakfast meetings we'll hold throughout the session.

Just like everyone, our minds are on the revenue estimate that came out Monday, which was great news, and leaves absolutely no doubt that the Texas economy is thriving.

It's also validation of our approach last session, as we refused to raise taxes, and instead made the sort of budgetary decisions families and small businesses have to make whenever money is tight.

By sticking to the conservative fiscal policies that have made Texas a beacon for job creation and business growth, we enabled business owners of all sizes do what they do best, which is to make money, grow, and hire new employees.

In Texas, we know that money does the most good in the hands of those who earned it.

We also know the best way to improve someone's life is to give them the opportunity to get a job, or get a better job.

That's been the basis for the decisions we've made over the past decade, and the evidence continues to mount that the decisions we've made are the correct ones.

In the coming months we'll work hard to address the needs of our state.

We'll look at our infrastructure, to supply water and improve transportation for current and future generations, and consider our educational system, so we can ensure a steady supply of qualified people ready to take on jobs of all types.

As I discussed yesterday, I believe it's also time to consider providing some tax relief for Texans.

All three of us share a vision of what the big picture is going to look like at the end of session, and we'll work together to produce a transparent, fiscally-conservative budget that meets the needs of Texans and restrains spending.

Now, I'd like to turn the microphone over to Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Straus for their perspective.

[DEWHURST SPEAKS]

[STRAUS SPEAKS]

Thank you, gentlemen.
If I can just add one more thing, I am proud to have partners in this process the caliber of Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and Speaker Straus.

Their dedication to the people of Texas has already made a big difference in the lives of countless people across this state.