

Nebraska's economy is seen by many as a relative bright spot in a nation working to rebound from recession. Our jobless rate, at 5 percent, is half the national unemployment rate. We consistently are at or near the top of national surveys of states' financial health and environment for jobs.

National media commentators ask me what accounts for Nebraska's strength. Earlier this week I had the pleasure of discussing Nebraska's "Main Street Model" for economic strength on The John Batchelor Show, a nationally syndicated radio program. You can hear the interview at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jHQnGN-dhM>

. We also had the chance to discuss pressing national affairs, including the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

While our state is not immune to the ill effects of the national downturn and some families are experiencing hardship, our state's economy has remained resilient, thanks in large part to a stable ag economy, small business diversification, and Nebraskans' practical sense regarding responsible lending, finance, and governance. Our formula for economic stability provides a good example to the rest of the nation – and people are paying attention.