Potential Questions for Governors in the Conference's First Panel, 1:00.

Questions will be asked in this order by Jim Flowers. We assume that time will not allow for all questions to be asked, but depending on how the session flows, we can also ask questions of the audience.

1. **What are the highlights of your state programs to further address the economic development role of telecommunication within your state?**

2. Telecommunications policy is a complex interaction between the private sector and a public sector composed of policy makers at the federal, state, and community levels. *Amidst all this complexity and jurisdictions, what role can governors realistically play in advancing the cause of telecommunications within their states?*

3. The dot.com bubble burst, the economy soured, and consequently, investing in technology—by both public and private institutions—became more difficult. *How does state support for telecommunications and technology initiatives fit in during times of economic slowing? For example, where should economic investment rank in terms of tight budget priorities?*

4. *What is the optimal role of the private sector in solutions to the digital divide?*

5. A study indicated that 57% of those not online have no intention of going online, in large measure because they see no reason to do so. *Should policy makers address those who do not want to be on the Internet and if so, what should states do about it?*

6. Many, though certainly not all, of your constituents regard technology as relatively unimportant to their economic futures; yet economic policy makers see it as critical to existing and emerging businesses, and future jobs. *How can we address public apathy or negativity about technology's role in the present and future economy?*

7. *Should states and communities have the ability to tax Internet services and sales through the Internet?*

8. Final Question:
   What can an organization like Southern Growth Policies Board do to help states and communities with their digital divide issues?