

MEMORANDUM

January 10, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Site Selection

CC: Lee Ann
Phillip

Site Selection magazine has selected Mississippi as one of its finalists this year in their 2001 Governor's Cup, "the area economic development industry's leading benchmark for business expansion activity." The coverage of this will be in their March issue.

We will be sending them a photo of you, and they also need comments on three questions.

Your thoughts on the state's strong performance in this year's Governor's Cup: *It is exciting for Mississippi to be recognized as a finalist for the Governor's Cup. We have worked hard, and continue to work hard every day, to bring high-quality, good-paying jobs to the people of our state.*

Which factors made business expansion in your state desirable despite tough economic times? *In 2000, we passed the Advantage Mississippi initiative. It is one of the most aggressive, creative and forward-thinking economic development packages in the country. We are able to tailor it to fit the needs of both potential and existing businesses around the state. Even though the country is facing difficult times, we're not going to slow down our efforts to grow Mississippi.*

What are your plans for building on this strong performance in 2002? *We are focusing on recruiting new businesses and expanding existing ones. We are continuing to strengthen education beyond the advancements of this past year; we have a great economic development package, but it won't work if we don't have a ready, trained and capable workforce to back it up. I'm excited about the prospects for Mississippi this year.*