

Mississippi & Nissan “Tie the Knot”

Nissan is bringing 4,000 new jobs, good paying jobs, to Mississippi. Nissan is making a \$930 million investment in our state, which will take us to new levels of prosperity and create for our families an improved quality of life. This is one of the largest worldwide capital investments Nissan is making this year. This project is the in the top one percent of all economic development projects this year in the United States. And, it’s happening right here in Mississippi!

With the creation of spin-off jobs in construction and service industries, with suppliers and contractors, more Mississippians than ever can take advantage of the opportunity to live, work and raise their families here. The potential for 26,000 jobs beyond the Nissan facility will change the landscape of this state for the better.

The entrepreneurial spirit in Mississippi is strong. We are proud and determined, and we will succeed! Mississippi will succeed, and Nissan will succeed! A shared vision, a shared future—Mississippi and Nissan are today partners in planning, and tomorrow we will be partners in prosperity.

Nissan understands the importance of a well-trained, high-quality workforce. Mississippi is committed to training and re-training so that our people can continue to compete in this new borderless economy. Nissan understands the importance of location. Mississippi is ideally situated for access to major North American markets. Highways, rail, and telecommunications—you can connect from Mississippi and to Mississippi.

Most of all, Nissan understands the importance of quality of life and quality of place. Their corporate commitment to the communities surrounding their facilities is strong, and we look forward to their involvement in strengthening Mississippi communities. We look forward to offering Nissan employees, our people, an opportunity to work with the intensity of Wall Street and live at the pace of Mississippi.

By working together we are beginning to capitalize on the momentum that has carried us this far and the optimism of our people to take Mississippi beyond what seemed impossible only a few years ago. We set aside the differences that divided the executive and legislative branches of government, and that divided federal, state and local governments.

We built a bridge of communication and cooperation and, in two special sessions, one in August and one this past Monday, we dared to cross that bridge together. We did so because we know that on the other side lies what serves the best interest of our people, not just what serves the best interest of our politics. Yes, we have a vision. Yes, there is an agenda.

We can and we must think bigger and plan farther than we ever have before. Over the years, we have set an ambitious agenda for our schools. We have set an ambitious agenda in health care. Have we been ambitious enough when it comes to attracting good jobs and building a more secure future for Mississippi's working families? Let us never forget: our people are our priority.

Mississippi has a strong economy. We have energetic entrepreneurs and a work force that is getting better and better. We have the resources. We have the potential. And now we have a plan.

Advantage Mississippi is that plan. By making dramatic changes in our economic strategy, we have made Mississippi competitive with other states. We are doing the work, and Mississippi is on her way to becoming America's State of Promise. We are excited about being part of that plan, and we are excited about Nissan's overwhelming vote of confidence in our state, in the people of our state.

We are committed to creating opportunity for the people who are Mississippi. Never again will we believe that something cannot be done. In the interests of our people, in the hope of our future, we will continue to find the way.

We will set unprecedented goals and at every opportunity reach for unparalleled progress. Our state deserves progress. Our people demand results. And, together we can achieve our goals.