

1. It is not a legislative issue. It is a Tax Commission issue. The Mississippi Tourism Association has met with Lester Herrington at the Tax Commission who was aware that other states have this provision, and the meeting was positive.

I would encourage you to invite Darienne Wilson, the Director of Tourism for the State of Mississippi to talk with your chamber members. I appointed Darienne to this position this past spring, and she has done a tremendous job with assessing our effectiveness with marketing the State of Mississippi from a tourism perspective. In response to their findings, we are making changes that are both cost effective and efficient and boost our tourism response and dollars to the state

2. We certainly support outdoor recreational activities, and golf is becoming a very good tool for our tourism department to promote for the State of Mississippi. If the \$3.5 million dollars is appropriated specifically for state or federal parks, it limits the usage to those facilities.
3. Mississippi has a rich history in visual and performing arts. The Mississippi Arts Commission has worked with us to bring the Majesty of Spain exhibit to our state for people across the nation to enjoy, as they did with the Versailles exhibit. Betsy Bradly, Director of the Commission will be available to discuss the program with you and we will be glad to work with you to continue its success.