



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ROBERT L. JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER**

January 8, 2001

Honorable Ronald David Musgrove
Governor
State of Mississippi
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor:

In recent months there has been considerable focus on the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) and the escalating costs associated with fulfilling the departments mission. This letter is an attempt to correct one misrepresented cost that has been reported frequently, that of the composite average daily and annual costs per inmate.

The MDOC reviewed its costs in December, 2000 and has determined the following composite costs as they relate to inmates in an MDOC operated facility:

- The composite average cost per inmate day is \$42.91; and
- The composite average annual cost per inmate is \$15,662.

These figures are extremely close to the figures presented in the December 6, 2000 report by the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER). The PEER report, entitled *Mississippi Department of Correction's FY 2000 Cost Per Inmate Day*, shows the total operating cost per inmate day as \$42.35. This figure is comprised of representative data for security classification and uses costs of selected units from MDOC operated facilities. MDOC's figure averages in all unit costs from MDOC operated facilities.

We respectfully submit these costs for your consideration and future reference.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Johnson
Commissioner

RLJ/jg