

- I want to thank all of you for having me here
- I have appreciated working with all of you over the last three years
 - Part of my job is being able to offer help to all of you
 - So we can work together
 - Ultimately for the benefit of the public
- One thing that I learned when I was first elected as a state senator
 - It does matter who's governor
 - If you are able to work closely with the Governor you are able to accomplish so much more

- Mississippians need to have a governor who's accessible to the people
 - There's a lot of you that have great ideas
 - The Governor can help you help Mississippi
 - As long as he's willing to listen
 - I'm always willing to listen and only ever a phone call away
 - Staff is also always willing to help
 - Bill Renick
 - Steve Hale
 - Jim Lott

- Working together, we've accomplished a lot for Mississippi over the last 3 years.
 - And we've accomplished it in the midst of a national recession
 - 9 million Americans out of work throughout the country
 - But while Alabama is raising taxes and Arkansas is cutting services
 - Mississippi has refused to follow suit

- When times are tough you must set priorities
 - That's why we're investing in education and jobs

- Education is our top priority
 - Public schools are the cornerstones of our communities and key to a successful economy

- Nationally recognized leader in education
 - **Teacher pay** / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Historic Investment in education / fund it first and at 62%
 - **Computers** in the Classroom
 - Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation
 - Stronger accountability standards
 - Test scores increasing
 - “No Child Left Behind” / 6th in nation to have plan approved

- Between 2001 and 2002, the number of schools identified by the federal government as “needing improvement” in Mississippi declined 90% --from 122 to only 11.
- **Good schools = good jobs**
- We’re giving our children more opportunity than they’ve ever had before
- The best thing for a child to see everyday on their way to school is their parents on the way to a good job
- Aggressive about creating good paying, quality **jobs for all Mississippians**
 - Mississippians are building cars right now at **Nissan**
 - Employing people from 77 of our 82 counties

- **MS/AL agreement**
 - Working across state and party lines
 - for one common goal, good jobs
 - Rest of the world doesn't let borders hold back economic development and nor should we
- Thousands of Jobs created by expansions at
 - Howard Industries
 - Northrop Grumman
- Economic development programs
 - Advantage Mississippi Initiative
 - Tax incentives for new businesses and business expansion
 - Created MDA and reorganized to improve efficiency

- Rural Impact Authority
 - Promotes business and economic development in rural areas
 - Provides grants and loan guarantees
 - Will help finance infrastructure repairs/building repair/ property acquisition

- These programs are opening our borders to the rest of the nation

- We've got more work to do
 - Constantly working to bring more businesses and jobs to Mississippi
 - Just a matter of time

- Problem of jobs moving to Mexico and China
 - Our furniture and textile industries have been decimated by programs like NAFTA
 - I've been working hard to bring jobs here to Mississippi
 - We've done well
 - Over 53,000 in the last 3 years

- I'm committed to continue working with all of you to keep Mississippi moving forward
- I'm proud of the work we've done
 - Proud of working together with all of you
 - Earned my trust
 - Starkville deal
- That's why I didn't hesitate
 - To support the anti stacking bill
 - to reappoint Bobby Waits
 - director of Public Utilities Commission
- Because I knew all of you were working hard
 - putting Mississippi first
 - right there with me
- Deregulation
 - Want to make sure you all know
 - I will continue to oppose it
 - It's wrong for Mississippi
 - And will drive prices up

- Just like all of you, I've worked for Mississippi, in Mississippi all my life.
 - Throughout my career, I've put the people of Mississippi first.

- In the end, all our work has been focused on one simple thing
 - Building Good Schools/ good jobs / good communities