

Entergy - Low Income Customer Assistance Summit
Friday, November 10, 2000
12:00 p.m.
Hilton Hotel

(150 representatives from various service delivery agencies will be at this meeting to discuss issues and offer possible solutions to the critical needs of low-income customers.)

Opening

- Good Afternoon
- It is a pleasure to be here today
- It has been an exciting week in Mississippi!

Main Points

1. Nissan Motor Company
 - a. Their investment in MS means more jobs for our people
 - i. 4000 new jobs
 - ii. 26,000 spin-off jobs
 - b. \$930 million investment in the State of Mississippi

- c. It is also further recognition that we have the quality workforce, workforce training programs and commitment to business growth that it takes to be competitive and successful
 - i. A vote of confidence in the people of our state
 - ii. Nissan has shown their faith in the state of MS
- d. Getting to that point was a team effort on all levels
- e. Because of the hard work of many individuals and agencies, we are able to celebrate the arrival of this new company to MS.
- f. Our state is poised to make huge gains in creating quality jobs, expanding the resources of existing MS businesses and attracting the interest of national and international companies
- g. We have worked hard enough in 10 months of our administration to put MS on the map for a large company to consider us for a possible locations site
- h. By making dramatic changes in our economic strategy, we made MS competitive with other states

- i. Now our job is spreading the word that MS has the right incentives and the right workforce to help make companies successful
 - j. Good jobs and a good quality of life make a positive difference to our state.
2. Strong economic development begins with a strong education
- a. Good education = Good jobs
 - i. Good high paying jobs
 - b. Business and industry are looking for a strong workforce
 - i. Well educated and skilled people
 - ii. Training and Retraining programs
 - iii. We, the citizens of MS, must be ready (educated & trained) to work for these high tech companies
 - c. That strong education begins in K-12
 - i. Good teachers
 - 1. Competitive salaries
 - a. Helps recruit students into teaching field
 - b. Keeps good teachers in the classroom
 - ii. Computers in the classroom
 - 1. Internet-accessible computers
 - 2. Task Force – goal end of 2002.

Closing

- We will continue to sell the state
- Look for new opportunities to bring additional higher paying jobs to the people of our state
- We want our people to build their lives and raise their families in Mississippi
- Now have the climate to make that happen in Mississippi
- Success will take leadership, vision and a solid direction
- The people of MS have our pledge to make their quality of life better