

*Remarks for the
Howard Industries Groundbreaking
July 9, 2003*

■ Recognize the Howards'

- Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck
- Rep. Bobby Shows and Joe Ellzey
- Mayor Susan Vincent, Laurel
- Mayor of Ellisville
- EDA of Jones County
- Jones County Board of Supervisors

■ Today is a great day for Mississippi

- When we invest in jobs, we invest in our people
- The ripple effect will be felt statewide

- Over the past three years, in the face of a national recession, we've been able to create over 50,000 new jobs at over 2,200 new and expanded facilities with a total business investment of over \$14 billion.

- On July 30, 2002, signed Senate Bill 2001 into law
 - Sealed our commitment to Howard Industries' expansion in Mississippi
 - Also made good on our fight to help create quality jobs for our people

- In the Tech Park South, expansion will break ground to create 2,000 jobs
 - 1st phase is a 200,000 square foot facility that will employ over 700 people.
 - Manufacture large substation transformers
 - 2nd phase will be computer plant
 - Building it all right here

- That's good for America and it's good for Howard Industries
 - It's even better for Mississippi and the hard-working people who live here

- It's all part of the changing image of our state
 - The question of "why Mississippi?" isn't being asked anymore

- The question now is, “why not Mississippi?”

- We’ve got all the answers anyone could need

- We’ve got the most aggressive job creation plan in the nation / Advantage Mississippi
- We’re strengthening our infrastructure to handle not just train tracks, but technology
- We’re investing in education / making it a priority when others are cutting back

- Most important, we've got the greatest people / ready to work

- This is a great day for Mississippi
 - Ready to turn the dirt and keep the ripple effect going across Mississippi