

*Remarks for the  
MDA "Site Selection" Press Conference  
March 13, 2002*

This is a great day for Mississippi, a day when the work we are doing is being recognized and applauded outside our own borders.

*Site Selection* magazine, a major economic development publication, has ranked Mississippi as one of the top ten states in the winner's circle for its "Governor's Cup" award.

This award recognizes the top states for new and expanded facilities in 2001. In ranking the states, other criteria had to be met as well before the final decisions were made.

In addition to our work with new and expanded facilities, we were ranked on capital investments in these facilities, percentage growth in facilities, and our ranking in *Site Selection's* annual survey on the business climate.

This ranking confirms what we've known all along, that Mississippi can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere. We're focused on recruiting and expanding businesses in the state, and creating jobs for our people.

We will never lose that focus.

During a national recession, we are making things happen. We've created more than 21,000 new jobs in the past two years.

We've attracted over \$6 billion in new investments.

We've committed ourselves to seeing Mississippi reach the true fulfillment of its promise, its potential, and its people.

As I said, we're in a national recession. There are a lot of people out of work right now. We have the opportunity, the ability, and the obligation to change that.

We will never stop working to bring in new business, to create new jobs, to attract new investments in Mississippi.

We will never stop working to expand the existing industries, to convince them we have more to offer than another location out of state or overseas.

The Mississippi of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is going to accomplish things that others have never thought possible.

We're going to build businesses and build jobs. We're going to craft an educational system that meets the needs of our children and adult learners. We're going to ensure the safety and security of our people.

We're going to continue to capture the attention of the rest of the nation, and the rest of the world.

This ranking in *Site Selection* is proof of that.

Mississippi is climbing its way up through the ranks. We're not dreaming about succeeding; we're working hard to make it happen.

I'd like to ask Bob Rohrlack, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, to say a few words, and then we'll take your questions. Bob, thank you for your hard work.

*(Bob speaks; return to podium for questions)*