

July 5, 2001

Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
487 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott:

I am writing to you with my concerns regarding the rescission of Program Year 2001 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) employment and training funds. I cannot support the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposed \$217.5 million rescission of Program Year 2001 funds for dislocated workers.

WIA funds provide invaluable training and services for our workforce to develop their skills and to gain employment after dislocation. Mississippi is to receive \$62,779,269 in Program Year 2001 WIA funds, including \$30,701,477 in funds for dislocated workers. As you are aware, several plants and businesses have closed in our state in recent weeks. The Mississippi Development Authority utilizes WIA funds to assist employees dislocated as a result of such closings in obtaining other employment and to provide these workers with the training needed to enhance their workforce skills. If approved, this rescission would result in Mississippi losing \$3 million to \$6 million to assist these dislocated workers.

It is my understanding that Congress is targeting these funds for rescission due to projections of high levels of unexpended funds in states. However, these projections do not capture obligations made at the local level and, therefore, are not representative of state employment and training demands.

I urge you to vote against this rescission. As always, thank you for your service to our state and our country.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr