
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: AUTO EXECUTIVES' PANEL FOR SGPB'S ANNUAL MEETING: WILL YOU INVITE NISSAN?
DATE 12/21/01
CC: FILE

Carol Conway of the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) staff emailed me this week and said that, as part of the June annual conference in Hilton Head, SGPB is putting together a panel of top auto executives to discuss workforce issues in the South. Governor Hodges of South Carolina has secured the participation of Jim Micali, chair and president of Michelin North America.

Conway inquired as to if you would be willing to approach the CEO for Nissan here in Mississippi. Ken Oilsclager is helping SGPB approach Toyota in Kentucky. The panel discussion will be held on Monday, June 10th, from 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm. Conway said that SGPB would probably get a Governor to moderate the session. (As incoming SGPB Chair and as a Governor who secured an auto plant, we could certainly offer your services to moderate, if you would like to.)

According to Conway, the following questions are the type that might be put to the panel participants for discussion:

- What is your opinion of the quality of the Southern workforce?
- How are changes in the auto industry affecting skill needs, both in terms of your OEM facilities and your suppliers?
- What is the future of the auto industry in the South?
- What should we be doing to prepare the workforce of the future?

According to Steve, Tracy Woodard (615-355-2377) is our contact for Nissan. Would you be willing to contact Tracy and extend the invitation for Nissan's participation? (SGPB will do the follow-up as to logistics, etc.)

Yes _____

No _____