
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: YOUR ATTENDANCE AT SREB ANNUAL MEETING IN AUSTIN: JUNE 22-24
DATE 5/20/03
CC: RENICK

SREB's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Austin, TX, June 22-24. These dates have been on your calendar since last August. Pursuant to my April 23rd conference call with Mark Musick and subsequent memo to you, you approved the agenda for the meeting. I mentioned the SREB meeting to Lisa after your MAE PAC interview and she had some concerns as to if you could be out of state for 2 days. Given her concerns, I mentioned the possibility of your not attending the entire meeting to Mark Musick at last week's NAGB meeting and asked him what time period was absolutely necessary for you to attend. He said that you really need to be present for the entire meeting, but that you could certainly appear at your designated times and then leave the room for call time, i.e., come and go as you need to.

Jill mentioned to me this morning that Monday, June 23, is being considered as a possible day for the campaign fly around. If this date is chosen and you do not attend SREB, I am concerned as to the message that this will send to the SREB region (i.e., leadership) and as to potential impact this might have on your reappointment in Austin as SREB Chairman next year (chairman traditionally serves 2 terms; you responded favorably to Mark's inquiry as to this in March). I realize that the campaign takes precedence, but I feel that it is my responsibility as your SREB liaison to apprise you of these concerns.

I've attached the agenda that you approved on April 23 for your reference. You are scheduled to participate at the following times

Sunday, June 22	7:00 p.m.	Opening Dinner/Plunkett Award (preside)
Monday, June 23	7:30 a.m.	Executive Committee Breakfast Meeting (preside)
	8:45 a.m.	Convening Session (preside)
	10:30 a.m. (?)	<i>Closing the Gaps/NCLB</i> Session (preside)
	Noon	NAEP Reading press opportunity with other governors
	2:00 p.m.	<i>Closing the Higher Education Gaps</i> Session (preside)

I think you could leave room around 9:15–10:15, 10:45–12:00. You have to be in the room at noon as we've invited other governors to join you for a press opportunity to talk about the region's success in the NAEP reading results, which are being released the prior Thursday. You could leave again around 2:30 or 2:45 on. There is a reception and dinner at the state capitol that evening.

Tuesday, June 24 8:00 a.m. SREB Business Meeting (preside)
12:00 p.m. Closing luncheon (preside)

Although Senator Mahoney is presiding over the 9:30 session, I think you would want to attend it briefly to highlight our Education First initiative. You could open the session and turn it over to Senator Mahoney. You could then be out of the room until noon (closing luncheon).

You have also approved Dr. Henry Johnson's traveling with us on the state plane to and from the meeting. If you do not attend or return early, I'll need to know in order to have Dr. Johnson make alternate plans.

Of course, I will abide by whatever decision you make about your attendance at the meeting. However, I think you should make every effort to be in Austin Sunday evening through Tuesday lunch, as you are SREB Chairman. As Mark suggested, you can come and go as needed. I recommend that you do this and you make the necessary phone calls when you are out of the room. I will do whatever needs to be done as far as staffing you for these phone calls (having contact info, recording decisions, etc.). I hope that another day can be selected for the fly around.

Please advise at your earliest convenience so that I can make any adjustments that might need to be made. Thank you.