

July 5, 2001

The Honorable

Dear :

The status of water supply and wastewater treatment facilities in rural Mississippi is approaching alarming rates. Last year alone, 286 boil water notices were issued by the state Department of Health to counties. Clean water and water treatment is essential for rural economic development. Rural and urban, many Mississippi communities are grappling with this basic need.

Section 592 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 authorizes \$25 million for a pilot program for environmental assistance to non-Federal interests within the State of Mississippi. Section 592(b) states:

Assistance under this section may be in the form of design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Mississippi, including projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, elimination or control of combined sewer overflows, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.

I strongly support the full appropriation for this authorization. Mississippi must build the infrastructure in its rural communities to have an opportunity for economic development success. Working together, Mississippi can maximize available state and federal resources dedicated for this purpose.

By assisting with the appropriations authority needed, you will be helping Mississippians obtain healthier water and opportunities for better jobs. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/mtb