

*Remarks for the  
Vision 21 Ceremonial Bill Signing  
April 15, 2002*

(recognize Butch Brown, Wayne Brown,  
Dick Hall and legislators)

I have outlined four priorities for Mississippi this year – economic development, education, health care and public safety. We were able to find common ground on these priorities, and that's good for the people of this state.

In particular, we found common ground in economic development. The Mississippi Development Authority is funded, and we have strengthened our commitment to work force training.

Today marks another step forward in our efforts to build Mississippi.

For our economic development work to pay off, we have to have a strong foundation in place for us to build on. That foundation must include an infrastructure of roads and other basic necessities.

The Vision 21 legislation strengthens our infrastructure, and strengthens our ability to compete. It provides a road map, if you will, for us to follow for the next twenty years.

This is good news for Mississippi. It demonstrates a strong commitment to bringing quality, high-paying jobs to our people. It enhances our tourism industry. And, it makes traveling Mississippi's roads safer for everyone.

I'm proud of the work that went into this bill and what it means for our state. I look forward to watching Mississippi grow as we focus on Vision 21.

(move to table and sign bill)