



TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1598

I am returning House Bill Number 1598: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002." without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 1% in the fourth quarter of 2000, the weakest performance in five years. Estimates for the first quarter of 2001 suggest 0% growth. Business investments have been sharply reduced. State revenues for March are projected to be \$15-\$18 million below estimates, a 7% fall off. Forecasts for the coming year call for sluggish growth. These clear signals demand fiscal prudence by our state leadership.

We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1599

I am returning House Bill Number 1599: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING SALARIES AND TRAVEL EXPENSES OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OF THE STATE AND PAYING OFFICE EXPENSES OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002." without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1602

I am returning House Bill Number 1602: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SUPREME COURT WHICH IS COMPRISED OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE OFFICE OF THE SUPREME COURT CLERK AND THE STATE LAW LIBRARY AND TO PAY EXPENSES OF SPECIAL JUDGES, CHANCELLORS AND CIRCUIT JUDGES, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS AND CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, COURT OF APPEALS AND THE BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1603

I am returning House Bill Number 1603: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAISING THE EXPENSES OF THE OFFICE OF CAPITAL DEFENSE COUNSEL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002." without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1604

I am returning House Bill Number 1604: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE OFFICE OF CAPITAL POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1605

I am returning House Bill Number 1605: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1606

I am returning House Bill Number 1606: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR



TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1611

I am returning House Bill Number 1611: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE MINIMUM EDUCATION PROGRAM AND FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOSPITALIZED AND EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

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RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1612

I am returning House Bill Number 1612: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1613

I am returning House Bill Number 1613: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 1% in the fourth quarter of 2000, the weakest performance in five years. Estimates for the first quarter of 2001 suggest 0% growth. Business investments have been sharply reduced. State revenues for March are projected to be \$15-\$18 million below estimates, a 7% fall off. Forecasts for the coming year call for sluggish growth. These clear signals demand fiscal prudence by our state leadership.

We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1614

I am returning House Bill Number 1614: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1615

I am returning House Bill Number 1615: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DIVISION OF MEDICAID FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI MEDICAID LAW AND DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH LAW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1616

I am returning House Bill Number 1616: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1617

I am returning House Bill Number 1617: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1619

I am returning House Bill Number 1619: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR



TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1620

I am returning House Bill Number 1620: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1621

I am returning House Bill Number 1621: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1622

I am returning House Bill Number 1622: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE GRAND GULF MILITARY MONUMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1623

I am returning House Bill Number 1623: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1624

I am returning House Bill Number 1624: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 1% in the fourth quarter of 2000, the weakest performance in five years. Estimates for the first quarter of 2001 suggest 0% growth. Business investments have been sharply reduced. State revenues for March are projected to be \$15-\$18 million below estimates, a 7% fall off. Forecasts for the coming year call for sluggish growth. These clear signals demand fiscal prudence by our state leadership.

We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1625

I am returning House Bill Number 1625: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR HOUSE BILL 1626

I am returning House Bill Number 1626: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

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Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3087

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3087: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR



TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3088

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3088: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3091

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3091: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE TAX COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION DIVISION, THE MOTOR VEHICLE COMPTROLLER FUNCTIONS, THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL DIVISION, AND THE BUREAU OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS; FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING THE COUNTIES, COUNTY DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPAL SEPARATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR TAX LOSSES INCURRED BY REASON OF THE EXEMPTION OF HOMES FROM CERTAIN AD VALOREM TAXES; AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002." without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3092

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3092: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI ETHICS COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3093

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3093: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAISING THE EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3094

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3094: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3098

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3098: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 1% in the fourth quarter of 2000, the weakest performance in five years. Estimates for the first quarter of 2001 suggest 0% growth. Business investments have been sharply reduced. State revenues for March are projected to be \$15-\$18 million below estimates, a 7% fall off. Forecasts for the coming year call for sluggish growth. These clear signals demand fiscal prudence by our state leadership.

We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3106

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3106: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

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When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3107

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3107: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE, AND GRAIN DIVISION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR



TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3110

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3110: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3111

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3111: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3112

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3112: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3114

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3114: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE MISSISSIPPI FAIR COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE DIXIE NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW; A ROUNDUP FOR JUNIOR EXHIBITORS OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY; SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR LIVESTOCK PREMIUMS; COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOWS IN OFFERING AND PAYING PRIZES OR AWARDS TO COMPETITORS IN APPROVED COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOWS; THE FIVE DISTRICT LIVESTOCK SHOWS; THE FIVE STATE DAIRY SHOWS; THE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL RODEO; AND TO PROVIDE HOW SAID MONEY SHALL BE PAID OUT OF THE STATE TREASURY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3120

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3120: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY; AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A DISASTER RELIEF RESERVE FUND AND DEFRAYING THE COSTS RELATED TO CERTAIN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3121

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3121: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3124

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3124: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

Within a \$3 billion budget, there are untold points of compromise and untold areas of debate, but only a very limited number of priorities and a short list of requirements. On behalf of Mississippi taxpayers, I have asked members of the legislature to take into consideration a number of unusual issues facing us in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mississippi's state budget is a blueprint for the success of our people, not a battle plan for the politics of personality. That blueprint can not be drawn accurately if we fail to take into consideration the slowing of our national and state economy, if we fail to take into account the profound shortfall of revenue coming into the state coffers during the present fiscal year, if we fail to properly assess how much we are going to grow and where we will choose to direct that growth.

Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 1% in the fourth quarter of 2000, the weakest performance in five years. Estimates for the first quarter of 2001 suggest 0% growth. Business investments have been sharply reduced. State revenues for March are projected to be \$15-\$18 million below estimates, a 7% fall off. Forecasts for the coming year call for sluggish growth. These clear signals demand fiscal prudence by our state leadership.

We are fortunate to have in place a number of safeguards to protect Mississippi taxpayers from a state government operating in the red. The Mississippi legislature is specifically prohibited from appropriating any more than 98% of projected revenues so that 2% can be set aside in our working cash stabilization fund for cash flow and emergency use.

In addition, the Governor must by law put scissors to agency budgets in any month when revenues fall below 98% of what has been projected by the legislature. With these safeguards in place, Mississippi state government will never spend more than we take in.

However, this years' legislature seems to want to ignore the downturn in our economy and asks that we swallow a budget pill that is too big. We simply will not take in the dollars necessary to fund these bills. Considered together, the budget bills total \$3.541 billion in general fund dollars.

When all the fancy words and all the big numbers are set aside, one simple truth remains. We will not have the resources necessary to pay for all that the legislature has funded. We can not erase the shortfall from this year, anticipate a shortfall for next year, and expect to provide our people with education, health care, safety and other necessary functions of government. It just can't be done.

Therefore, I can not in good conscience sign these bills without asking the Mississippi legislature, representatives duly elected by our people, to reconsider their efforts and take one more look at where we can make responsible decisions and set a reasonable direction for our state, together. Let's talk about making fiscally conservative projections, giving our agency directors flexibility to better manage their resources, and let's give our people a reason to have confidence in our actions for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3125

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3125: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR



TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3126

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3126: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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Respectfully submitted,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE FOR SENATE BILL 3127

I am returning Senate Bill Number 3127: "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF THE DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002" without my approval and assign the following reason for my veto.

While most Mississippians do not spend every day worrying about the budget bills considered by the Mississippi legislature, they do spend every day concerned about educating their children, getting health care when they need it, paying their bills and building a future or planning for retirement. Within a budget totaling more than \$3 billion, we can assist Mississippi families in doing those very things.

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