

For Immediate Release
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Cingular Wireless to Create 700 Jobs with Service Center in Ocean Springs

Jackson, Miss. - Today, U.S. Senators Trent Lott, Thad Cochran, Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove, and officials of Cingular Wireless announced the creation of a new 700-employee multi-state Cingular Wireless service center in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

"Cingular's creation of more than 700 jobs in Mississippi is another example of our state's ability to bring more good job opportunities to our people," said Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove. "The Advantage Mississippi Initiative gives us the tools we need to attract business and industry wanting to relocate or expand to our state."

The center will service Cingular Wireless customers in portions of South Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana with its customer care call center. The company plans to utilize an existing building on Bienville Road, formerly occupied by Wal-Mart. The facility will employ about 600 full-time customer care representatives; 57 management employees and roughly 50 support personnel. The jobs will include a full array of benefits including 401K options. The facility's annual payroll will be about \$21 million to be dispersed to its employees and community. The company expects the facility to be operational between June 1 and September 1, 2001. Cingular Wireless - formerly known in Mississippi as BellSouth Mobility - is a new company, formed by joining the wireless divisions of BellSouth and SBC Communications, two firms which jointly own Cingular.

"I was delighted to work with Cingular Wireless officials, Governor Musgrove and the Jackson County Economic Development Authority to promote Mississippi as a site for this regional service center," Senator Lott said. "This is part of our ongoing and mutual effort by state officials, Senator Cochran and myself to bring quality companies and new jobs to our state. This is especially good news for the Gulf Coast which follows the release of census data last month that

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confirmed the rapid growth in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties. This dramatic growth of the Coast's population and its economy has made Mississippi even more attractive to major companies like Cingular, who seek to better serve an expanding market base in the Gulf South Region."

Senator Cochran stated:

Senator Cochran stated, "I am pleased that Cingular has chosen Mississippi as one of the sites for their new consolidated customer care center. I am proud that corporations like Cingular recognize the benefits Mississippians can provide to their company."

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