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**For Immediate Release:**

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## **NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR GOVERNOR'S CUP RECOGNIZING SMALL AND LARGE BUSINESSES**

JACKSON, Miss., - Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today the Mississippi Development Authority in partnership with the Mississippi Economic Council is soliciting nominations for this year's honor to be presented at the Annual Mississippi Economic Development Council's awards banquet, Thursday, July 10, 2003 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The award, one of the highest honors presented by the Governor, recognizes private sector businesses that have had significant impact within their local community during calendar year 2002. The purpose of the Governor's Cup Awards Program is to honor these businesses, raise general awareness about their successful efforts, and showcase what is possible.

"I hope that the eligible nominating organizations will take this opportunity to consider the businesses in their community and examine how they have made a difference thru their community involvement, economic impact and human resources," said Governor Musgrove. "I encourage the members of our economic development organizations and area Chamber of Commerce's to nominate businesses who deserve recognition."

The Governor's Cups are awarded to businesses in two categories: a) Small Business – firms with 50 employees or less, b) Big Business – firms with 51 or more employees. One winner in each category will be recognized in each of eight districts. From these 16 District Winners, 2 Statewide Winners will be chosen, one from each category. The program follows the district lines of the Mississippi Development Authority and the Mississippi Economic Development Council.

**MORE**

Nominations may be submitted by Economic Development organizations or by the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the local nominating entity of each of the District Winners will receive a \$1,000 Planning Grant for their existing industry and business program. The local nominating entity for each Statewide Winner will receive a \$15,000 Planning Grant for their existing industry and business program.

For additional information about the Governor's Cup Awards or the nomination process, please contact the MDA Existing Industry & Business Division at 601-359-3593.