

Mississippi Development Authority  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LAUREL LUMBER COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN STATE'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN PROGRAM**

LAUREL, Miss., - Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) along with representatives from Laurel Lumber Company will participate in a loan closing ceremony, Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. at Laurel Lumber Company. The low interest loan for \$300,000 is being awarded to Laurel Lumber Company as a result of their participation with MDA's Energy Investment Program.

The Energy Investment Program, administered by Energy, a division of MDA, provides low interest loans to businesses to finance energy conserving capitol improvements or to fund projects that make current industrial processes more efficient. The goal of the program is to allow businesses implementing these improvements to realize cost savings and/or increased revenues as a result of lowered utility bills and/or increased productivity.

Laurel Lumber Company plans to discontinue using natural gas fired burners in the kilns and utilize a portion of the waste wood generated in the dressing process to fire a steam boiler. The generated steam will then be used to heat the kilns and dry the lumber. When implemented this project will produce a savings of approximately \$190,000 because of the elimination of the natural gas cost.

"The relationship of Laurel Lumber Company and the state of Mississippi is another great example of how business and government can partner to benefit our people," said J.C. Burns, executive director, MDA.

**(MORE)**

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“I would like to thank the Mississippi Development Authority for assisting us with this project and promoting industry around the state. With the aid of their aggressive loan program, we have been able to bring more jobs to Jones County, lower our energy consumption, and increase our productivity,” said Hugh Thomasson, owner, Thomasson Lumber Company.

“Improving Mississippi through economic development is our priority,” said Wes Miller, manager, Financial/Technical Bureau, Energy Division, MDA.

For additional information regarding MDA’s Energy Investment Program, contact: Wes Miler, at (601) 359-6606 or 1-800-222-8311.

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