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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPORT CONFIRMS QUALITY WORKFORCE AVAILABLE

JACKSON, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove announced today the findings of a labor analysis conducted by The Pathfinders research firm of Dallas, TX. The study showed the central Mississippi area has an abundant workforce pool to meet the needs of new existing industries.

“We are pleased that the report shows central Mississippi has a very capable, skilled and productive workforce,” said Governor Musgrove. “This is a powerful asset for Mississippi to attract new industries and higher wage jobs.”

The report showed a labor pool of 68,400 underemployed workers possessing the skills, experience and education to qualify them for better positions. The data suggested that an employer moving into the area would find a good workforce when quality, skills and experience are considered. There are sufficient numbers of workers to accommodate very large operations, and business recruitment targeting should be upscale companies needing quality employees rather than low-cost workers.

“We’re serious about economic development and the creation of high-wage jobs,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority. “Make no mistake. Mississippi is open for business.”

The Labor Analysis, commissioned in February, 2002, covered fifteen (15) central Mississippi counties including: Yazoo, Madison, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Jasper, Smith, Covington, Jeff Davis, Simpson, Rankin, Hinds and Copiah, and a portion of Lauderdale County.

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