

For Immediate Release
February 15, 2002

Contact: John Sewell
601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Visits Alcoa Expansion in DeSoto County

Hernando, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove visited the Alcoa soft-alloy extrusion plant in Hernando today to commend plant management on their expansion and decision to remain in Mississippi.

“In the face of a national recession, we’ve not only helped prevent a plant from closing but spurred its growth. Instead of jobs being eliminated, we rolled up our sleeves and helped create new ones,” Musgrove said. “We were able to do this because we’re committed to keeping jobs in our state. This is great for Alcoa, it’s great for their employees, and it’s great for Mississippi.”

Alcoa had considered closing the Hernando facility and consolidating production in other facilities outside the state. The decision to remain and expand their facility in Hernando was influenced by efforts from the Mississippi Development Authority. The \$16 million expansion of the plant is scheduled for completion in September 2002.

“This is the result of a lot of hard work on everyone’s part. The state and county officials have really helped in turning this around,” said Tom Ziegler, Operations Manager at the facility.

Jim Flanagan, President and CEO of the DeSoto Economic Council commented that the plant’s expansion was “a clear indicator that there is a healthy diversity of both manufacturing and distribution jobs here.”

###