

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Calls Special Session for Major Expansion of Mississippi Company

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has called a special session of the Mississippi Legislature for Tuesday, July 30, 2002, to address a \$31.5 million incentive package for the expansion of Laurel-based Howard Industries. A total of 2,000 guaranteed new jobs would be created through the expansion.

“When we invest in economic development, we invest in our people. It’s time to make that investment again,” said Musgrove. “As one of the leading manufacturers in the nation, Howard Industries quietly, but effectively, impacts global industry, exporting to over 150 countries. Their growth in Mississippi should be supported by Mississippi.”

Howard Industries operates with four main companies – Howard Transformer Division, Howard Computers, Howard Ballast Products Division, and Howard Transportation. In business for 30 years, the company had sales last year of more than \$450 million. They employ more than 3,500 Mississippians with a payroll of \$90 million.

“The work we will do on July 30 may not affect what happens on Wall Street in New York,” Musgrove said. “More importantly, it will affect what happens on Sawmill Road in Laurel and every street where the employees and future employees of Howard Industries live.”

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