

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Praises Mississippi's Selection As One of Top Ten States for Economic Growth

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today praised the ranking of Mississippi as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities in 2001. Mississippi tied for seventh place, along with Georgia and South Carolina, for *Site Selection* magazine's "Governor's Cup" award.

"This ranking confirms what we've known all along, that Mississippi can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere," Musgrove said. "We are focused on recruiting and expanding business in the state, and creating jobs for our people. We will never lose that focus."

States were ranked based on ten different criteria, ranging from total new and expanded facilities per one million population in 2001, to their ranking in *Site Selection's* annual business climate survey.

Mississippi ranked eighth in total new and expanded facilities per one million population; sixth in three-year growth in new and expanded facilities from 1998 to 2001; sixth in the number of top 100 small towns in annual rankings; and fourth in the number of 100-plus job projects per million population.

Bob Rohrlack, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, said the award "is another positive statement for the progress occurring in the State of Mississippi. We're working to create jobs through our existing industry programs and recruit new companies looking to expand or locate in Mississippi. We have a clear vision for continued economic prosperity."

According to Musgrove, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative played a strong role in the ranking.

"It is one of the most aggressive, creative and forward-thinking economic development packages in the country," Musgrove said in the magazine. "Even though the country is facing difficult times, we are not going to slow down our efforts to grow Mississippi."

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