

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Cites Ranking of Mississippi Cities

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove says the ranking of four Mississippi cities in a listing of “America’s 50 Hottest Cities” for manufacturing expansions and relocations is evidence of progress that has been made in creating jobs for the state. The cities of Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula and Jackson received the ranking in the January 2003 issue of “Expansion Management” magazine.

“We are fighting hard to create quality, high-paying jobs for the people of Mississippi, and this ranking demonstrates that we are winning the fight,” said Musgrove. “Our state has a reputation as a great place to do business, and we’re working to strengthen that reputation every day.”

The magazine ranked the 50 cities based on the quality of “business environment, work force quality, operating costs, incentive programs, worker training programs and ease of working with local officials.” A total of 75 site selection consultants were asked to rate a listing of 331 metropolitan areas.

The cities of Biloxi, Gulfport and Pascagoula ranked together in 35th place. The city of Jackson ranked 39th.

“When companies see rankings like this in industry magazines, they know that what they’ve been hearing is true,” Musgrove said. “Mississippi is open for business.”

Mississippi was listed by “Site Selection” magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities. In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival. Under Musgrove’s leadership, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.

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