

For Immediate Release
May 30, 2003

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Governor Musgrove Appoints Steve Hale to Head Mississippi Development Authority

(Jackson, MS) – Bob Rohrlack, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority, submitted his resignation today to Governor Ronnie Musgrove. The resignation is effective June 13, 2003. Musgrove accepted the resignation this morning.

“Bob Rohrlack has been a tremendous part of our effort to build Mississippi, and I appreciate the energy and leadership he has brought to his position,” Musgrove said. “All of our work has been about creating jobs for the people of this state, and Bob has done a fantastic job for us.”

Rohrlack said he was resigning because of the demands of the position on his personal life. Rohrlack is married and has three young sons.

Musgrove said current MDA Chief of Staff Steve Hale would immediately replace Rohrlack as MDA Executive Director.

“Bob and Steve have worked closely together and performed as a winning team,” Musgrove said. “We have had a strong management team in place, and that will not change. Steve Hale is a known commodity to this state’s economic development community and I am confident in his abilities to continue our successes.”

Hale has served as Chief of Staff at MDA since June 1, 2002. A former mayor of Senatobia, Hale oversaw economic development policy in Musgrove’s office before moving to MDA. In his position as Chief of Staff, Hale is responsible for day-to-day operations of MDA and works in close partnership with the legislature, elected officials, and community leaders across the state.

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“Bob Rohrlack shined the light of technical expertise on the Mississippi Development Authority – providing the kind of systematic operational structure to position the agency to have a competitive edge and continue moving progressively forward. He brought the right tools to the job at the right time,” said Blake A. Wilson, President of the Mississippi Economic Council.

“Steve Hale has had the benefit of working strategically with Bob in putting the systems in place at MDA – and now can bring his recent MDA experience, as well as his long-term understanding of the needs of Mississippi communities gained through his work as Mayor of Senatobia, to the economic development table. It’s for this reason that we expect the transition at MDA to be seamless, offering an opportunity for Mississippi to continue to gain new ground in a field that requires flexibility,” stated Wilson.

During the Musgrove administration, more than 53,000 new jobs have been created at over 2,200 new and expanded facilities. Total capital investment in the state totals nearly \$15 billion.

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