

For Immediate Release

May 19, 2003

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Governor Musgrove: *Forbes* Ranking Another Indicator Of Mississippi's Growth During National Recession

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said today that the ranking of two Mississippi cities in the top 150 “Best Places for Businesses and Careers” is another indicator of the state’s growing competitiveness and respect in the business community. The cities of Jackson and Biloxi were listed in the latest issue of *Forbes* magazine. The survey was conducted by the economic and financial research firm, Economy.com.

“This is great news for Mississippi, and further demonstrates our ability to compete for jobs and industry,” Musgrove said. “The *Forbes* ranking echoes what other publications have already written, and many companies already know, about Mississippi. We’re a good place to do business.”

The survey focused on income and job growth. Special attention was also given to the cost of doing business, which included the prices of labor, energy, taxes and office space. Jackson ranked 46 of 150 and Biloxi ranked 127th. A complete listing of the 150 cities can be found on the *Forbes* web site, www.forbes.com.

“We are serious about moving our state forward in terms of jobs, technology and economic prosperity. This announcement by *Forbes* is further evidence of Mississippi’s strong business climate and ability to compete in the global marketplace,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, Mississippi Development Authority.

The state 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. The January 2003 issue of *Expansion Management* magazine ranked four Mississippi cities among the 50 hottest cities for expansion in the nation. Under Musgrove’s leadership, more than 53,000 jobs have been created at over 2,200 new and expanded facilities. Total capital investments over the past three years total nearly \$15 billion.

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