

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2003

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Governor Musgrove Sponsors Successful Resolution To Protect Mississippi Forests

(Jackson, MS) – At a meeting of the Southern Governors Association today in Washington, D.C., a resolution sponsored by Governor Ronnie Musgrove was unanimously adopted. The resolution calls on Congress and President George Bush to enact financial incentives designed to support forest resources.

“We have a vested interest in sustaining our forest resources,” Musgrove said. “They provide recreational opportunities, encourage tourism and present environmental benefits ranging from water quality to cleaner air to wildlife habitat.”

With population growth encroaching on southern forests, efforts have been underway to work with private landowners to retain forested areas. Mississippi was the first state in the nation to pass a reforestation tax credit, helping landowners with expenses associated with the stewardship of forested land and encouraging them to replant in harvested areas.

“This program has been good for Mississippi and those who care for and nurture our forest lands,” Musgrove said. “I believe the Southern Governors Association should encourage innovative policymaking that protects our forests, and adoption of this resolution is a positive first step in that dialogue.”

The Mississippi Forestry Association, in voicing its support of the resolution, cited the reforestation tax credit, a state cost-share tree planting program that supplements federal programs, and its own network of County Forestry Associations as further evidence of efforts to protect and sustainably manage the state’s forest resources.

“I congratulate Governor Musgrove for his leadership with this resolution, and thank him for his ongoing commitment to the state’s forestry resources,” said Bruce Alt, Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Forestry Association.

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