

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **GOVERNOR MUSGROVE ANNOUNCES DEAL TO PROVIDE ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS WITH FREE ONLINE TAX SERVICES**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced that his administration has invited leading private sector companies to enter into an agreement with the state to provide free *state* tax preparation and e-filing services online to a majority of Mississippi state taxpayers. The deal announced today closely tracks the Free File Alliance, a public-private partnership between the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a consortium of tax preparation software companies, which make *federal* tax services available for free through their websites. Musgrove made his announcement this morning at the Woolfolk State Office Building alongside Chris Long, a representative of the event sponsor, Computer & Communications Industry Association, and Jim Ruda of Intuit, a participating Free File Alliance company.

“Today’s announcement will make it possible for thousands of hard-working Mississippi taxpayers to prepare and file both their state and federal taxes online and free of charge,” said Governor Musgrove. “It is important to note that this partnership will cost taxpayers virtually nothing. Instead, companies will be providing their services for free through their own websites.”

The Free File Alliance, which debuted in January, makes free federal tax services available to more than 60 percent of taxpayers through the IRS web site, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Eligible taxpayers choose from multiple private sector offerings and then are directed to a private company’s website, where they can use free tax preparation software and file their returns electronically. By filing their taxes online, taxpayers can receive their refunds in as little as ten days. The refunds can also be directly deposited into taxpayers’ own bank accounts.

To illustrate the value of the state’s free file agreement announced today, Governor Musgrove spotlighted the online offering of Intuit, a Free File Alliance partner company. As part of its affiliation with the Alliance, Intuit donates its TurboTax for the Web service through the Intuit Tax Freedom Project. The Tax Freedom Project, which can be found online in the Free File section of [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or at [www.taxfreedom.com](http://www.taxfreedom.com), provides all taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$27,000 or less or claimants of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit free online tax preparation and e-filing services for both their federal and state returns.

(more)

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“The state free file agreement provides valuable services to thousands of taxpayers through the Internet, and it renews the state of Mississippi’s commitment to bridging the Digital Divide,” added Governor Musgrove. “Taxpayers who may have shied away from using the Internet in the past will find, with the help of companies like Intuit, that online tax preparation is easy, fast and secure.”

“Programs like the Free File Alliance preserve and protect the independence of our citizenry by putting the tools of modern e-commerce within the reach of all,” explained Chris Long, a representative of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, which is sponsoring today’s event. “It protects the privacy of a citizen’s tax preparation process, keeping it as a transaction solely between the citizen and their tax preparation software provider. With companies providing their services for free through their own websites, eligible citizens will be able to get the same e-commerce tax services that would otherwise be paid for.”

“Intuit was very pleased to join the federal Free File Alliance earlier this year, furthering the strong commitment we began in 1998 of providing free online tax preparation and electronic filing to lower and moderate-income individuals and families through our Tax Freedom Project,” added Intuit’s Jim Ruda. “Technology can revolutionize people’s lives, but technology that only benefits a few fails to realize its promise and potential for good. The Mississippi state free file agreement is the next step in expanding both Intuit’s commitment and that of our colleagues in the industry to serve those in society who can benefit from these modern tools but who have previously been underserved.”

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### **About CCIA**

The Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) sponsored Governor Musgrove’s event as one of a series of public awareness activities across the country to spread the word that the Free File Alliance is available to qualifying taxpayers. CCIA is an international, nonprofit association of computer and communications industry firms, representing a broad cross section of the industry.

CCIA is dedicated to preserving full, free and open competition throughout its industry. Our members employ nearly a million workers and generate annual revenues in excess of \$300 billion.

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