

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Signs Remote Sensing Legislation

(Jackson, MS) – Following through on the recommendations of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Remote Sensing Technologies, Governor Ronnie Musgrove today signed House Bill 861, creating the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems.

“So many factors are affected by remote sensing technology, from economic development to telecommunications to homeland security,” Musgrove said. “With this council in place, we can formalize and streamline our efforts to move Mississippi ahead.”

Remote sensing technology acquires images or other information about the Earth’s surface. Geographic Information Systems are used to display and analyze the collected information.

“Using these types of technologies to generate scientific data, we can make better and quicker decisions,” said Charles Chisolm, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The council will be responsible for the development of policies and standards “for remote sensing and geographic information system users around the state to share information and to facilitate cost-sharing arrangements to reduce the costs of acquiring remote sensing and geographic information system data.”

"This is one of a number of initiatives where state and local government entities in Mississippi can work cooperatively to the benefit of all, and can provide a more cost-effective service to the businesses and citizens of the State," said David L. Litchliter, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services.

The council will also oversee the development and maintenance of a digital land base computer model of the state by the Department of Environmental Quality. Such a model will have strong applications in the expansion of the state’s infrastructure, recruitment of new industry, and protection of natural resources.

“The image of Mississippi is rapidly changing around the nation and around the world,” said Musgrove. “We are using cutting-edge technology to make the most of our resources and market our assets to potential investors world-wide.”

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