

For Immediate Release

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NATCHEZ, TWO NEW PROJECTS INVEST IN AREA

JACKSON, Miss. – Governor Ronnie Musgrove and officials from the Mississippi Development Authority announced a series of programs today to provide economic assistance to the city of Natchez and to southwest Mississippi. In addition, Governor Musgrove met with representatives of International Paper and local officials to discuss International Paper's decision yesterday to close its Natchez facility dislocating some 640 workers.

"The national recession has continued to impact our communities. Today, I have pledged my support to the talented, skilled workers at International Paper and others in this area who have lost their jobs. Our rapid response team will work to ease the transition and get people back to work as soon as possible," said Musgrove.

Governor Musgrove's visit had been scheduled originally to announce investments by two companies in the Natchez region. The Governor joined MDA representatives, Adams County and Natchez officials, and other economic development officials to announce investments by C.S. Lumber and Tessengerdlo Davison Chemicals.

C.S. Lumber plans to manufacture crossties employing 15 persons while Tesenderdlo Davison Chemicals will employ 40 persons.

Musgrove stated, "Today's news of these two companies selecting this area is a positive step. We will continue to work hard to bring more opportunities to Natchez and to southwest Mississippi."

Economic assistance programs announced today include:

\$50,000 for a Study that will analyze the strengths and weaknesses in the area and help develop a strategic plan for new job creation.

\$200,000 Grant from federal funds could be provided to the state for Rapid Response Activities.

\$100,000 made available in HOME funds to provide down payment assistance and closing costs.

\$100,000 made available for Economic Development Marketing to help promote the region and its skilled, available workforce to attract new business and industry.

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