

For Immediate Release

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Governors Musgrove and Riley Sign Interstate Agreement to Create Jobs

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove and Alabama Governor Bob Riley today signed a letter of intent to establish an interstate agreement focused on job creation along the border between the two states. Musgrove traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to sign the agreement while the Alabama Legislature is in session.

“Governor Riley and I are committed to crossing state and party lines to create jobs along the border between Mississippi and Alabama,” Musgrove said. “We are dedicated to economic growth, and we are going to change the way business is done in the south and in America.”

The letter of intent signed by the two governors establishes the terms by which Mississippi and Alabama will develop the framework for the regional alliance. As the formal agreement is being crafted, the two states pledge “their full and unconditional support to a coordinated, cooperative marketing effort” between the two states, “designed to highlight the many economic advantages to this cooperative economic development strategy.”

“The bottom line is to create economic opportunity and improve quality of life for the people of Mississippi and Alabama,” Musgrove said.

During the Musgrove administration and under the pressure of a national recession, more than 2,200 facilities have opened or expanded, creating over 53,000 jobs. Capital investment in the state for those facilities during the same period totals nearly \$15 billion. 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.

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