

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

GOVERNOR MUSGROVE AWARDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO SUNFLOWER COUNTY

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove recently announced the latest Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$650,000 awarded to Sunflower County.

“Mississippi has a number of advantages and a wealth of resources to offer business and industry. The state gladly supports the efforts of communities striving to promote those resources to attract jobs and a higher quality of life for our citizens,” commented Governor Musgrove.

The funds, received through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, will be utilized for public facilities improvements on behalf of INDI-BEL, Inc.

CDBG is a program of the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority. Among the division’s goals are assisting communities in analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, involving their leadership in economic development, planning development strategies, strengthening development organizations, and implementing and financing community projects. The Community Services Division also administers other Economic Development grant and loan programs.

Mississippi 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. Under Musgrove’s leadership, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.

###