

For Immediate Release
May 30, 2003

Contact: John Sewell
601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Awards First Rural Economic Impact Grant

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today awarded the first Rural Economic Impact Grant to the City of Tylertown. The grant was in the amount of \$245,300, and will be used for repairs to an existing manufacturing facility owned by the city.

“This grant is the first of many that will positively impact our efforts to create jobs in rural areas of Mississippi,” said Musgrove. “Every job in our state is important, whether it’s two people in a truck or 5,000 people building a truck. Every job matters.”

In his 2003 State of the State address, Musgrove proposed the creation of the Rural Economic Impact Authority to support job creation in rural areas of the state. Legislation was passed providing \$10 million for grants and loans to rural communities, as well as loan guarantees for rural businesses.

A rural community is defined as a municipality with a population of 10,000 or less, or a county with a population of 30,000 or less. A rural business is defined as a new or existing business located, or to be located, either in a rural community or within five miles of a rural community.

“The work we do in growing our rural areas is key to growing our entire state,” Musgrove said. “Success in Tylertown is success for Mississippi.”

During the Musgrove administration, 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.

###