

## 1. Investment in DeSoto County

See DeSoto Times article dated July 18 re: DeSoto County vital to Memphis metro's economic growth.

Alcoa Expansion – Sept. 02, \$16 million in investment; no new jobs created; MDA provided only technical advice

Helen of Troy – 50 jobs

\$800,000 CDBG (MDA) for Brentwood Originals

1<sup>st</sup> responder funds

1687 Transportation Unit – MS National Guard – payroll of almost \$700,000.

I-69 issue – based on recommendation from DeSoto County, Put Jim Flanagan on the Bi-State Board.

Bob Rohrlack decision to not finance retail

Recently issued bonds to build mall – GRM's meeting yesterday with the Bond Commission

## 2. Health Care

The Med - “The Governor understands the importance of the Trauma care network to the people of Mississippi. That's why he supported and signed legislation that included the Med in the Mississippi trauma care network.” In addition, the Governor asked that the legislature establish equitable funding for the Med and Mississippi hospitals that participate in the trauma care network. The Governor and Rica Lewis Payton strongly recognize the importance of the Med to the access of health care to the people of north Mississippi. That's why under the Governor's leadership, the Med was enrolled, for the first time, as a Mississippi Medicaid provider in the DSH and UPL programs to provide critical health services to the people in North Mississippi.

## 3. Legislation signed

2003 Schools – high student growth acceleration, SB 2404 – Schools – provide for additional funds to certain growth districts (3 % or greater in ADA) – **DeSoto County** (MDE and Supts. Association support) Madison County will also benefit.

2002 exempted inventory at warehouses from inventory tax, HB 1075 McCoy  
Removed the authority of the state tax commission to determine who is a Freeport warehouse and placed it with the tax assessor and the local board of supervisors. Local control issue – GRM approved to provide additional local control to the counties to spur local economic development. Don't have to pay warehouse taxes for the goods (Dec 31 report inventory – if show intended location, don't have to pay taxes) allows MS to maintain jobs without charging a company for it's inventory based on what it has as holdings on the last day of the year.

#### 4. CIC – Robin Costa, Tom & Bob Pittman's participation

DeSoto County has been a leader in Mississippi. More than 40 students in the DeSoto County Schools helped build more than 5,900 computers for classrooms in the state. Workforce development and training is key to the success of our state and DeSoto County. Robin Costa and Tom Pittman helped spearhead this project with us.

Without community leaders like Robin Costa and Tom Pittman, DeSoto County would not be where it is today. My efforts from the state level will be to assist our schools, colleges, and universities in developing strong committed community leaders.