

Groundbreaking Brings Us One Step Closer to New Jobs

Mississippi is no longer considered just a small, rural agricultural state; we are now a state that attracts international, high-tech companies. Nissan's \$930 million investment in Mississippi shows their faith in our state, but most important they are showing their faith in our people. This is an outstanding opportunity happening now in Mississippi.

Education is the key to our success. Education is the key to all of our successes and our future successes. Hence the reason I have made education my number one priority. All other great opportunities for Mississippi seem to just fall into place when we have quality education and trained people. We would not have this opportunity today with Nissan, if Mississippi did not have a skilled, trained workforce.

The jobs created by Nissan are positively affecting the entire state of Mississippi. Our workers are able to transition into this new job market and are able to be trained to meet the ever-changing demands of the advancing high-tech industry. Workforce training incentives will help Nissan and their employees meet these demands.

Nissan brings with it 4,000 direct jobs with thousands of indirect jobs for our people. The indirect jobs will come as we attract supplier companies to Mississippi. With those companies come more, good jobs for Mississippians.

Mississippi is one step closer in our efforts to make an impact on the world economy. We want Mississippians, Mississippi businesses and Mississippi's products and services to play a major role in the global marketplace. We are doing that, and we will continue to market our state as America's State of Promise.

As we seek World Trade Center status, the Nissan project will further heighten our exposure nationwide and worldwide. Other industries will take notice of the outstanding opportunities here in Mississippi for their company and their employees. A good quality of life is essential for a company to succeed, and Mississippi's communities offer an exceptional quality of life.

Great schools, great neighborhoods, great recreation and great opportunities are only a few of the incentives that Mississippi has to entice more industries to relocate to our state and for existing industries to expand. Mississippi is a state we love to call home, while we have the tools to work at the pace of Wall Street. In Mississippi, you can enjoy your life while you make a living, without the hustle and bustle of a big city.

For years we have been investing in our education, in our people and in our state. Mississippi is now starting to reap the benefits of years of hard work. Now is not the time to slow down our investments, we must continue to nurture and grow. Mississippi

has not reached its fullest potential; there are many more opportunities waiting for our state – for our people.

The groundbreaking for Nissan Motor Company is a victory for everyone in the State of Mississippi. It is further confirmation to us that Mississippi is being taken seriously. Mississippians are taking our share of the opportunities that create a better quality of life for all of us.