

*Remarks for  
Cooper Lighting Visit  
February 18, 2002*

Thank you, Jimmy. It's great to be in Vicksburg, and it's great to be here to help you celebrate a tremendous milestone for your company!

Cooper Lighting is setting a new standard for excellence in manufacturing. It's been said that when you aim for perfection, you discover it's a moving target.

You've shown that you've got great aim.

Four million man-hours without a lost-time accident is a great achievement. Combine that with the contributions you've made to Vicksburg and the State of Mississippi, and Cooper Lighting truly stands out in the crowd.

We've worked hard in the face of a national recession to keep things moving in Mississippi. We've brought over 21,000 new jobs to the state in the past two years, and we're working every day to bring more opportunities for our people.

And when we've got great business partners like Cooper Lighting, it makes our job even easier.

The rest of the country is looking at Mississippi as a leader in economic development. We've lifted our level of competitiveness to new heights, and it's paying off.

We're ambitious, we're aggressive, the results are evident, and the bottom line is this – now is not the time to back off our investments and efforts to bring jobs to Mississippi.

Your leadership in the manufacturing sector, combined with your efforts to give something back to the community and the state, is making a great difference.

Mississippi is doing more and doing it better than ever before, and I'm proud that Cooper Lighting is there with us.

It is my honor to present this award to Cooper Lighting for its dedication to safety, and its commitment to excellence.

Thank you.

