

*Remarks for  
The Nature Conservancy's  
Corporate Council for the Environment Luncheon  
February 28, 2002*

The great American conservationist John Muir once wrote, “when one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

Such is the nature of sustainability, the concept that the environmental systems that shape our lives and our communities are constantly intertwined and interacting. This should be the nature of our public work as well.

The work we do to bring jobs and economic growth to Mississippi should be balanced with the work we do to protect our natural infrastructure.

We need to find the delicate balance between progress and conservation, and I know we can do it.

Mississippi is blessed with tremendous natural resources, resources we must conserve as our gift to future generations.

The Nature Conservancy plays a strong role in the presentation of this gift, in its efforts to protect our lands and waters through existing partnerships as well as partnerships formed through the Corporate Council for the Environment.

Corporate partners and members of the Corporate Council provide much needed support for the Nature Conservancy, helping to do effective and valuable conservation work and promote sustainability.

Mississippi has precious natural assets, and we must protect them. I applaud those companies that have committed their support to the Corporate Council, and encourage others to follow suit.

In 1855, Chief Seattle said, “humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

We recognize that all things connect in Mississippi. Together, we're keeping the connection strong and healthy – and it will benefit our people, our economy, and our land.

That will be our gift to future generations.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning. You have an aggressive agenda and great potential here, and I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

