

*Remarks for the
Location Announcement of EOH Energy LLC
April 2, 2003*

- Recognize Al Brock / Tommy Hart / Mayor Artman / Mr. Rankins (supervisor)

- We're here today because a group of people here in Greenville and Washington County wanted to make a difference
 - They created opportunity / helping their community
 - Helping the image of our state

- Image of MS in 2003 far different than the image most know
 - Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
 - Competing and leading in the global marketplace

- Setting new standards for education and economic development

- Mississippi is a recognized leader in education
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Princeton Review: 6th best testing system in nation
 - Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind” / USA Today article
 - 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - 62% of general fund

- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs

- We gained the attention of companies around the world when we landed Nissan
 - Now more than ever, Mississippi is being visited by companies

- They are coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
 - Site Selection magazine: Mississippi ranked as Top 10 location for new companies
 - One of top 10 states for small business survival
 - Expansion magazine: 4 Mississippi cities ranked in latest survey of 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities

- When businesses read these industry publications, they see that Mississippi has something to offer
 - They realize the image has changed

- We're constantly working to keep things moving
 - We do that by thinking creatively and acting aggressively

- State of the State address: Proposed Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - Support local economic development efforts
 - Job skill training at community colleges

- MS's potential not exclusive to metropolitan areas
 - Promise of our people is just as strong in rural areas
 - Fighting to bring quality jobs to every Mississippian

- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities

- That's the image being shaped through this initiative
 - Making the most of this area's promise and potential

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- Thank you for commitment to helping build an image for others to follow