

*Remarks for the
Future Pipe
September 10, 2003*

- Recognize Future Pipe Chairman Fouad Makhzoumi, Patrick Lang, Mike Olivier, and the MDA team.
- It is great to be with you here tonight.
- About one year ago, we announced the news that Future Pipe was locating their first US operation here in Harrison County. With over 300 jobs and \$7.5 million in investment, Future Pipe is demonstrating their strong belief in Mississippi and in our workforce.
- Chairman Makhzoumi, what an announcement we have here tonight.

- Chairman Makhzoumi is announcing an expansion prior to the first product being produced.
- He will give you the details but I know of no stronger statement.
- We worked together to bring Future Pipe to Mississippi.
- I would like to recognize our team from MDA and the team from the Harrison County Development Commission.
- Mississippi is earning its future, reaping the rewards and is focused on its priorities
 - Priorities- Education and jobs
 - Improving the quality of life for all of its 2.8 million citizens
- Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- As Governor these are the priorities we have focused on. These are the priorities that Harrison County is focusing on.
- Investing for the people of Mississippi today, for dividends tomorrow
- By working together, we have accomplished a lot, but it hasn't been easy
 - Every state impacted by national recession
 - More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
 - President Bush recently announced three million manufacturing jobs are leaving America
 - June 2003 report from Bureau of Labor Statistics: 9.4 million Americans out of work –NAFTA 41,000 to Mexico

- Alabama, Texas and Florida are raising taxes and Arkansas is cutting services.
Mississippi has refused to follow
- 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
 - Computers in the Classroom
 - Accountability

- Princeton Review: 12th best testing system in nation
- Leading other states in preparedness for “No Child Left Behind”
- Three years ago 122 Mississippi schools needed to improve- today I am glad to say that the number has been reduced by 90% to 11
 - Our test scores are improving
 - 6th in the nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Historic action of funding education first
 - The youth of Mississippi are 1/3 of the population, yet all of our future)
- Receiving an excellent education and securing a well paying job are two of the

things my mother emphasized to me and it has stuck with me over the years.

- Mississippi has experienced significant growth over the past three years
- We are aggressive about creating good paying, quality jobs for all Mississippians
 - Over 2,200 new and expanded facilities
 - More than 56,000 new jobs
 - Total investment in Mississippi nearly \$15 billion
- The best thing for a child to see everyday on their way to school is their parents on the way to a good job
- Companies are coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do – Tonight is a strong testament to our efforts.

- I now have the honor of introducing Fouad Makhzoumi.
- I met Mr. Makhzoumi _____.
- (tell something personal about your meeting)
- Fouad has business interest located in Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Italy, France, The Netherlands, Germany, UK, Spain, Thailand, Singapore, and now here in Mississippi, USA.
- Recognized as a global leader, please join me in welcoming Mr. Fauad Makhzoumi.