

Opening

1. Good Morning, it is a pleasure to be here this morning.
2. Humorous Story
3. This makes the eighth trip to the Delta in 3 months – Just here Friday Morning speaking to the Chamber of Commerce members – Delta Democrat Times

Main Points

1. Economic Development
 - a. Determine where we are in the Delta and where we need to be
 - b. Must be competitive with other states
 - c. New Economic Development Plan for the entire state
 - i. Old Plan
 1. Written in 1989
 2. Stale
 - ii. New Plan

1. Must be able to “sell” Mississippi
 2. tax incentives
 3. Give cities ability to be flexible
2. Business and Industry is looking for a Well educated, trained and skilled workforce
- a. We must invest in our schools
 - b. Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern Average
 - c. Technology in the classrooms
 - d. Gates Foundation grant – teaches superintendents, principals and teachers technology teaching skills.
3. Where does the Delta fit into the Economic Development Plan
- a. This area has not prospered like many other areas of the state
 - b. Education, transportation, infrastructure, job development, job training,
 - c. Extra incentives for the Delta.
4. Delta Regional Authority
- a. Comprehensive

- b. Accountable
- c. Coordinated Effort
- d. Designed after the Appalachian Plan

Closing

1. We know we face challenges
2. Must work together
3. Need your help
4. Committed to the MS Delta and the State of Mississippi