

Mississippi Manufacturers Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, June 8, 2000  
10:00 a.m.

They have asked that you give brief remarks about the state of the state. Les Young, MMA Chairman of the Board is to introduce you.

## **Opening**

1. Thank you for the invitation to be here
2. story

## **Main Points**

1. Economic Development
  - a. Special Session later this summer
    - i. New Plan
      1. It is critical that we don't waste any time getting underway with a new plan
      2. Competitive with other states
      3. Allow our cities to be more flexible
  - b. Should apply to existing business and industry as well
    - i. Have vested interest in Mississippi
    - ii. Should receive benefits because of their prior commitment and potential for development

2. Business and Industry is looking for:
  - a. Well Educated
  - b. Well Trained
  - c. Skilled Workforce
  
3. That starts with a commitment to education
  - a. Raising teacher pay to Southeastern Average
  - b. Invest in our schools
  - c. Technology in the classroom
  - d. Gates Foundation Grant
  - e. Giving our students the skills they need to succeed
  - f. Better schools = better jobs

## **Closing**

1. We face challenges
2. Working together, we can find solutions that answer those challenges
3. Need your help and commitment