

*Remarks for the  
Mississippi / Alabama Letter of Agreement (Montgomery)  
June 12, 2003*

- Recognize Governor Riley
  - This is an historic day for our two states
  - An important day for other states to take notice of
- **Mississippi and Alabama are coming together** to work toward a common goal
  - **Creation of quality jobs** for our citizens
  - We will aggressively pursue every opportunity
- When we last met in April, we discussed the implementation of a formal alliance to attract jobs and industries to our shared border
  - Today, we are here to sign the letter of intent to establish this alliance
- Impact of the **national recession** has affected every state
  - Mississippi and Alabama have had to change the way we do business
  - We've been forced to think outside the box / be creative
- Fiscal relief is important and welcome, but we cannot always depend on help from Washington
  - States must be willing to step out and take action
  - That's why we're here today
- Governor Riley and I are committed to crossing state and party lines with the goal of making a difference for the people of our states
  - We are going to cooperate in a dedicated effort of **economic growth**
  - We are going to change the way business is done in the south and in America
- When an industry looks to locate a new facility, they are looking for **good locations, good infrastructure, and good incentives**
  - This agreement will make them available like never before
  - This alliance is going to provide the **opportunities and the advantages** that companies look for
  - Our people are the ones who will benefit
- The bottom line in this work is focused on **improving the quality of life** for the **citizens of Alabama and Mississippi**

- Mississippi Development Authority Executive Director Steve Hale and his counterpart in Alabama, Neil Wade, have already been working together in this effort
  - They will take that work to the next level
  - **Selling Mississippi and Alabama to the rest of the world**
  
- Thank Governor Riley and his team, including Neil Wade, for commitment to making this agreement a reality