

Working closely with us and with you are our agency directors. I would like to recognize them and ask them to please stand. John Allison, Executive Director of the Department of Banking and Consumer Finance; Gary Anderson, Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration; Janice Broome-Brooks, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services; J.C. Burns, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority; Glen Carpenter, Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources; Charles Chisholm, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Robert Latham, Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Authority; General James Lipscomb, Adjutant General of the Mississippi Military Department; David Huggins, Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety; Don Strange, Executive Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics; Rica Lewis-Payton, Director of the Division of Medicaid; and Robert Johnson, Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections. Thank you to each of you for your hard work and dedicated service to the people of Mississippi.

Delta Regional Commission

While much of our nation, and part of our state, has experienced growth over the last decade, many Delta Communities have not participated fully in our newly found prosperity. We look forward to the great impact the new Delta Regional Commission will make on the people of the Mississippi Delta. With this Commission we are taking accountable action to make improvements that creates a culture ripe for growth.

Just as the Appalachian Regional Commission has addressed the chronic economic depression and poverty that existed in that part of the nation, and our state, the Delta Regional Commission can do the same. We have with us today the Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission Dr. Mabel Murphree. She is working to empower citizens and communities to enhance economic development and growth for Mississippians, and we appreciate her enthusiasm and hard work.