

*Remarks for the
TK Fabco
October 22, 2003*

- Recognize Bob Soulliere (Sue-lee-a), Pres and CEO of ThyssenKrupp Fabco
 - David Rumbarger, Pres and CEO, Community Development Foundation
 - Phil Morgan, Pres, Lee County Board of Supervisors
 - And other distinguished guests

- Perception of Mississippi is changing
 - Old question of “why Mississippi?” not asked anymore
 - Question now is “why not Mississippi?”

- Image of Mississippi has changed
 - Image of a state moving quickly into the 21st century
 - State competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - State setting new standards in education and economic development

- No longer depend solely on agricultural or low-wage jobs
 - Aggressive about creating quality, high-paying jobs for our people

- Putting people to work in highly-skilled jobs, like these here at ThyssenKrupp Fabco and Nissan
 - After expansion is complete, 130 Mississippians working at this facility
 - Plant in Shannon, MS is one of only two in the US and one of only five in North America

- Gaining attention of other companies around the world
 - Coming to Mississippi because the word is out about what we can do
 - *Site Selection*: Mississippi one of the Top 10 locations for new companies
 - One of top 10 states for small business survival

- *Expansion Management* magazine: 4 Mississippi cities in survey of the 50 hottest American cities for expansion or location of facilities

- Businesses read these industry publications and realize Mississippi has something to offer

- They realize image has changed
- Doing business like never before

- Passage of Mississippi Rural Economic Impact Authority

- Help local communities with their economic development projects
- And infrastructure improvements

- Looking to future of Mississippi and charting where we want to go
 - End goal is to build on promise and potential
 - Build a state based on good schools, good jobs and good communities

- Image of Mississippi in 2003 unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - Image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - Image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies like ThyssenKrupp Fabco doing business in the state

- It's an image we've worked hard to present
 - It's an image that becomes even more real today

- It's a great for ThyssenKrupp Fabco; it's a great day for Nissan
 - Great day for Lee County / State of Mississippi

- Proud of the work we've done together to get to this point
 - Look forward to the successes that lie ahead for us