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**Governor Musgrove Talking Points
April 11, 2003**

We are certainly disappointed that WorldCom has decided to move their headquarters to Virginia. But, we're pleased they will still maintain a presence in the state.

I recently met with WorldCom's Chairman and CEO, Michael Capellas. He was in the area to meet with his employees and update them on where the company was headed. Michael reassured me of WorldCom's commitment to Mississippi and despite this most recent announcement, it plans to maintain a significant presence in Clinton, even adding 100 jobs in the near future.

WorldCom has been a fixture in Mississippi for 20 years. The company grew up here – going from a startup to one of the largest global communications companies in the world. For years we've been proud of the company's accomplishments, the jobs it created and the positive role it has played in our state's economy.

Currently, more than 1,500 Mississippians are employed by WorldCom, and we hope to see that number continue to grow.

Clearly, the past year has been devastating for the company, its employees and its shareholders.

In our meeting, Michael assured me that WorldCom is healing and on the right track to emerge from this situation. It's clear the company is doing the right things to rebuild its financial situation and restore public trust in the company.

He also assured me of WorldCom's commitment of operating with the highest ethical standards.

Most recently, the WorldCom headquarters in Clinton was somewhat a formality, in that most of their senior management team was based in Virginia. While this may seem at the moment a great loss, in the long term future of Mississippi, we will continue to work with WorldCom to build on the 100 jobs they are adding, and perhaps even greater numbers as their financial strength grows.

Let's not forget the other leading telecommunications companies we have in the state. Cellular South, based in Jackson is the largest privately owned wireless company in the nation. A major division of AT&T Wireless, SunCom was built in Jackson. And Air2Lan is making waves in wireless broadband and should emerge as a major player in that industry.