

*Remarks for the
Yorozu Automotive Groundbreaking
December 4, 2001*

Good morning. I love days like this, days when we gather to celebrate the good things happening in Mississippi.

Mr. Shido, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Mississippi, and we're excited to have you here.

The world is taking notice of Mississippi now, and for all the right reasons.

They see what we've done with the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, both in terms of recruiting and retaining business.

They see Mississippi as a serious player in the world market – and I'm proud of that. It's about time people realized that we can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

I'm excited about what's going on in Mississippi, about our potential and our promise, about our ability to accomplish some fantastic things.

I'm excited about new businesses locating in Mississippi and the opportunities they bring with them. Yorozu is part of the latest round of Tier 1 suppliers coming in with the Nissan plant, and I look forward to a very long and productive relationship between them and the state.

As I've said before, the investments in Mississippi and the creation of new, quality jobs send a message that we will not be slowed by attacks on our country and our way of life.

Today's groundbreaking is strong evidence of that.

How we continue to grow and develop our industry depends on us and our mindset.

We cannot look at a situation and think, "something must be done." We have look at them and think, "we must do something."

I want every Mississippian to think that way.

I want us to work together to accomplish those things I know we can do.

We have been blessed with the talent; we must invest it well, and not be content with keeping it buried.

Again, Mr. Shido, welcome to Mississippi.

Thank you.