

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Office of the Governor



May 10, 2016

TO THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE AND THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT FOR SENATE BILL 2873

I am signing Senate Bill 2873, "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE FOREST AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017."

While I support the appropriation made in Senate Bill 2873 to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred in the operation and maintenance of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, I do not agree with Section 7 that appropriates public funds for a private business. The Mississippi Constitution is clear that "[g]eneral appropriation bills shall contain only the appropriations to defray the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the government; to pay interest on state bonds, and to support the common schools." Senate Bill 2873 does not explain the relationship of the private business to the Forest and Wildlife Research Center or the reason for the appropriation made in Section 7.

I do not intend to sign appropriation bills in the future which appropriate state funds in this manner. Business entities seeking public funds for worthy projects may apply to the Mississippi Development Authority for any available grants for which they qualify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bryant".

Phil Bryant

GOVERNOR

May 10, 2016