

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



April 16, 2013

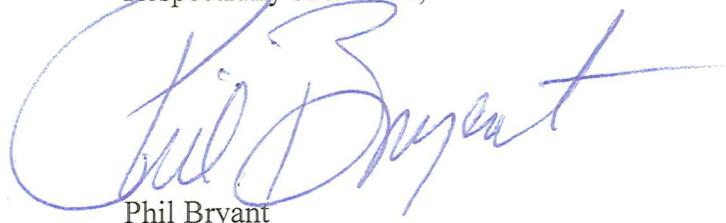
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE:

GOVERNOR'S SIGNING STATEMENT FOR SENATE BILL 2899

I am signing Senate Bill 2899, "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE EXPENSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014";

I am disappointed that the Legislature has chosen to underfund our statewide public safety and emergency communications system, which is used every day by local and state first responders throughout Mississippi. This system was built after Hurricane Katrina to withstand the effects of severe weather and provide our first responders with public safety grade communications, and was completed statewide this year. I have been, and continue to be, supportive of this state-of-the-art MSWIN communications system. The Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission requested an appropriation of \$14.5 million for Fiscal Year 2014 (\$10 million for radio communications and \$4.5 million for data communications). The Legislature's total appropriation of only \$6 million effectively discontinues the data communications program and places our radio communications system in jeopardy. I am hopeful that this appropriation will at least be enough to prevent a forced shutdown of the system this year. Additionally, I hope this amount will not subject our state to litigation over existing contracts and grant agreements, which I have warned may result from just this sort of underfunding.

Respectfully submitted,



Phil Bryant
Governor

