

May 26, 2000

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Governor of Utah
Chair, National Governors' Association
444 North Capitol St., Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Dear Governor Leavitt:

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Mississippi, I would like to invite you, your families and the members of the National Governors' Association to hold the 2002 NGA Annual Meeting on our beautiful Gulf Coast. Mississippi last hosted the NGA Annual Meeting in 1935, and we welcome the opportunity to do so again in the summer of 2002.

Mississippi has earned the title of The Hospitality State, which is exemplified daily by the people who live, work and raise their families here. We are a state rich in culture and history, which is growing to meet the needs of our people.

We know that the Mississippi Gulf Coast would meet both the convention needs and the entertainment and recreational needs of each of the Governors, their families and their staffs. Our Gulf Coast has developed into a top tourism destination and serves as host to more than 22 million visitors each year. The businesses, educational institutions and public entities have created a culture of progress and growth on the Gulf Coast that stems from a history of partnership and pride for their communities.

We have a team that is committed to ensuring a well-planned and well-executed NGA Annual Meeting. Our goal is to plan and implement a meeting that will raise the bar of standards for the National Governors Association. I am excited about hosting this pivotal event and give my guarantee to the NGA for a fantastic Annual Meeting in Mississippi in 2002.

If I may be of assistance please don't hesitate to call.

Very Truly Yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE