

A popular question in business and industry today is, “Why not Mississippi?”

Companies are looking at this state because we are taking an aggressive stance when it comes to economic development, education, health care and public safety. They know the Advantage Mississippi is perhaps the greatest job creation and economic development package in the country and the envy of our neighboring states. They know states like New York are wondering why they can't craft teacher pay packages like Mississippi. They realize we are working hard to provide the highest quality health care for all our citizens, along with a dedication to their safety and security.

The Mississippi Development Authority and Bob Rohrlack are helping change the business climate of our great state. Through the hard work of a lot of people, Mississippi was ranked as one of the top ten finalists for *Site Selection's* “Governor's Cup” Award. We have the momentum with us, and we can't let it slow down now; that's why I'm working hard to make sure the MDA is fully funded for 2003. With everything we've done in the middle of a national recession, we just can't afford to put it all at risk.

The question of “Why not Mississippi?” is being asked by business and industry looking to build or expand. “Why can't we be more like Mississippi?” is the question more states are asking. Together, we'll show them the answers.