

*Remarks for the
Deer Island Press Conference
April 1, 2002*

Secretary Clark, members of the Coast delegation, this is a great day for you, the Mississippi Gulf Coast and our state as a whole. Senate Bill 2273 is about to become law.

This bill authorizes the issuance of bonds for the purchase and preservation of Deer Island, and makes it part of the Coastal Preserve System.

This will ensure the opportunity for future generations to enjoy the beauty of one of Mississippi's greatest natural resources. The work we do to preserve this area will be a gift to both our children and our environment.

Secretary Clark, I want to thank you for the work you have done in support of this bill. With your role in the effort at Deer Island, we can be confident in the success of this project.

To Senator Gollott and the other members of the Coast delegation, thank you for your commitment to maintaining the beauty of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It is good to know Deer Island will be safe from development, and our children will have the chance to know the importance of our natural resources.

A Native American proverb says “we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, but borrow it from our children.”

Deer Island is on loan to us from the next generation and it is our obligation to return it to them in good condition. With this bill, and with the strong leadership of Secretary Clark and the members of the Gulf Coast delegation, that's just what we'll do.

(step to desk and sign bill)

I'd like to ask Secretary Clark and any of the Gulf Coast legislators to make remarks, and then we'll be glad to take your questions.

Secretary Clark?