

October 24, 2000

Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

This letter is to inform you of my support for an innovative Mississippi-centered, multi-jurisdictional law enforcement technology initiative known as "COPS-Tech" (Communications interOperability for Public Safety Technology). I understand your staff may have been briefed in the last few weeks by proponents of the COPS-Tech initiative. As you know, COPS-Tech represents an outgrowth of efforts by several Mississippi-based public and private entities.

I hope you will join me in supporting COPS-Tech. In that regard, I respectfully request your assistance in obtaining any federal law enforcement technology grant funds available in this year's appropriations process. Specifically, during the upcoming House-Senate Conference on the FY 2001 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill, I urge you to support the earmarking of funds for the COPS-Tech initiative in whatever amounts might be possible within the Crime Identification Technology Program. I understand the total amount of funding requested would be used to support such activities as purchase of information-sharing technology equipment, software, network systems, and services for local law enforcement.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request. Please contact Donna Simmons on my staff if you need further information regarding the support by the State of Mississippi for this important crime-fighting initiative.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

cc: Mississippi Congressional Delegation