

Opening

- Good Morning
- Story
- Pleasure to be in the Delta again today. (there yesterday, today and will be there again tomorrow)
- Have had the opportunity on several of these trips to the Mississippi Delta to talk about Economic Development

Main Points

1. New Economic Development Plan
 - a. Old plan worked well for some time
 - b. Think about how much things have changed in 5 or 10 years
 - i. Advanced Technology
 1. Websites
 2. Cellular phones
 3. Businesses run from the home
 - ii. Borderless Economy
 1. state-wide
 2. nation-wide

3. world-wide

c. We have to make changes if we want to keep up

2. Business and Industry looking to locate, relocate or expand

a. Long list

b. Short list

i. Mississippi's incentives were not what they were looking for

ii. Other states were winning the business

iii. We were not competitive

3. The Advantage Mississippi Initiative

a. Comprehensive

i. Works for both rural and urban areas of the state

b. Fact based

i. Input from business leaders

ii. National experts

iii. Community members

c. Program and Incentive based

i. Delta

1. many counties qualify for tax free zones
2. infrastructure improvements
3. enhanced, targeted training
4. scholarship fund
5. Division of MDA responsible for rural development
6. Agriculture/Agribusiness Round Table

Closing

- The plan will be accountable and adjustable as we monitor our progress
- Legislators have the opportunity to move us in the right direction during our upcoming special session
- Congratulate Viking Range Corporation – a true success story in the Mississippi Delta.
- Together, we are working to ensure that Mississippi is America's State of Promise.