For Immediate Release

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Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement today regarding a press conference held by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce:

"In the middle of a national recession, we are working very hard to bring new jobs to Mississippi. And, it is working.

"Friday, we are going to Japan for the sole purpose of more jobs for Mississippians. Our trip will focus on companies who have recently selected Mississippi and companies who are ready to expand. This mission is part of our aggressive Advantage Mississippi initiative.

"Today's action by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is outrageous, inappropriate, and irresponsible. Basically, what they are doing is nothing more than political blackmail. The U.S. Chamber should worry about the national economy and the national recession's effect on Mississippi and not the other way around."