



Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Governor David Ronald Musgrove,

I would like to open this letter by saying that a law that allows the Jr. Colleges of Mississippi to have the final say above we tax payers and citizens, in reference to whether the Gulf Coast of Mississippi gets a 4 year University or not, is unacceptable. I am referring to a 1972 Mississippi law that gives Mississippi Jr. Colleges the power to step on the rights of the citizens of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Furthermore, what makes the Jr. Colleges think that a 4-year University on our coast is going to cripple their programs? The truth is, students that can't afford to go to a 4-year university will still end up going to one of our fine Jr. Colleges and an expansion will only provide some healthy competition that will provoke better educational programs. There are a number of positive points to having a 4-year university on the coast. A 4-year university will bring students to the gulf coast, provide new students that can strengthen our technical work force, and will give students a better environment to make a decision to stay in our state. Moreover, the expansion will be the building block toward putting the Gulf Coast of Mississippi on the map. I deal with some of the top for-profit companies in the nation and I can tell you that they speak to people from Mississippi like this state is still in the days of the horse and buggy. I am truly tired of that kind of mentality, for I am associated with a lot of fine people on this coast that are endowed with talent and brilliance. I feel that in order to have other states and businesses look upon Mississippi's Gulf Coast as a top provider of technical goods and services, we collectively need to provide the say type of environment that they do. We should start by abolishing the nearly socialist law of 1972 that I mentioned above then work to establish a 4-year University on this coast with strong technical programs. In addition, we should build upon that by providing an avenue for the technical entrepreneurs and other technical companies to flourish on this Fine Gulf Coast.

God Bless, and thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Allen Lanoue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Allen Lanoue  
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ATTN: I would also like to point out an article that I found in the Sun Herald. It is on the next page. I am asking you to please help in this matter. I have heard a lot of good things in reference to your beliefs as a politician and Christian, so please don't become a politician that endorses shallow promises.

## EDITORIALS

# Musgrove still has a promise to keep to USM Gulf Coast

**G**ov. Ronnie Musgrove is scheduled to be on the Coast today and he needs to be reminded of a promise he made to the Coast last year.

During the gubernatorial campaign, Musgrove supporters mailed fliers to tens of thousands of Coast households. The supporters used bold type for emphasis to tell voters:

**"Ronnie Musgrove has delivered for USM Gulf Coast expansion. Lt. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove has made it clear that he supports a four-year university program for USM's Gulf Park Campus. Musgrove has pledged that as Governor he will appoint board members who share his belief that the Coast needs a four-year university program. Ronnie's friends on the Coast want their neighbors to know that this is not just an election-year pledge. . . ."**

But now in office, Musgrove appears to have appointed five College Board members who know nothing about his position on, and promises to, USMGC.

One of the five, Amy Whitten of Oxford, said this week, "The only instructions he gave me were 'I want you to do a good job; I want you to be open; and I want you to be fair.'"

A second appointee, Scott Ross of West Point, said of the expansion of USMGC: "I don't know enough about it to tell you anything."

These statements do not indicate that Musgrove has fulfilled his campaign promise of appointing College Board members who share his belief that the Coast needs a four-year, publicly funded university.

Last year Musgrove convinced many Coast voters that he was the candidate with "a record of delivering for the Coast." He can begin proving that by convincing his own appointees to the College Board that USMGC must be expanded.