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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATE RESPONDS TO JUDGE'S FINDING REGARDING
PROPERTY**

Jackson, Miss., March – The Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority (MMEIA) continues to review the Opinion of the Special Court of Eminent Domain in the Tom Hixon case in order to assess its options. While officials are pleased with the court's finding for public use and necessity of Mr. Hixon's property for the Nissan project, they were also disappointed with the court's finding relative to negotiations with Mr. Hixon.

“Our attempts to reach an agreement with Mr. Hixon have been carried out in compliance with both state and federal law while being mindful of the taxpayers' dollars involved,” said J.C. Burns, Executive Director, MMEIA.

He continued, “It is our concern that this ruling, as it stands, will adversely impact the continued progress of the Nissan project and could have a negative impact on future economic development projects statewide.”

“This project is one of the largest projects the state has ever attracted and will provide over 4,000 high paying jobs for the citizens of Mississippi. Other indirect jobs could reach upwards of 26,000 and will offer an opportunity for all our citizens to enjoy a better quality of life. This has been our goal throughout this project and other economic development efforts to make sure that all our citizens can have a higher standard of living,” Burns said.

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