

For Immediate Release
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Governor Musgrove Requests Federal Funding To Combat West Nile Virus

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has submitted a letter to President George Bush requesting federal funding to support Mississippi’s ongoing efforts regarding the West Nile Virus. In the letter, Musgrove asks for a total of \$7.8 million under an emergency declaration to cover costs incurred by local and state agencies for emergency protective measures as well as for future control measures.

“I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments,” Musgrove wrote. “Supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives, (and to) protect property, public health and safety.”

A total of 51 confirmed cases of human infection with the West Nile virus have been identified to date, and the virus has been found in 49 counties statewide in humans, birds, horses or mosquitoes.

Musgrove declared a state of emergency on August 9, which provided authority for officials to access private property as part of their efforts to control the spread of the virus.

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