

For Immediate Release

February 4, 2003

Contact: Lee Ann Mayo

601-359-2777

GOVERNOR MUSGROVE ASKS PRESIDENT BUSH TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR RURAL MISSISSIPPI

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove issued a statement today requesting President Bush restore funding to the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) in the 2004 federal budget.

“The national recession has taken its toll on our communities and NAFTA has strongly impacted our rural areas.

“With a cut of over 80 percent to DRA, job initiatives and resources will be greatly hampered, jobs that are critical for economic development. DRA, serving 45 counties, provide basic infrastructure needs to these communities.

“Now is not the time to cut the DRA program that provide a direct benefit to our people.

‘I urge President Bush to restore funding to a level that directly assists our rural communities and jobs for our people.’”