

September 30, 2003

Mr. Walter Huston, Executive Director
Phoenix Project: Community Development Foundation
PO Box 696
Fayette, Mississippi 39069

Dear Mr. Huston:

Thank you for contacting our office regarding the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors' application to the Delta Regional Authority for the purpose of establishing a business development and entrepreneurial project in your community. The Governor read your letter and asked that I contact you on his behalf.

As you know, the federal government dramatically reduced the Delta Regional Authority's allocation from previous years. In fact, Mississippi's allocation for the 2003 grant program was reduced to only \$897,000. The Delta Regional Authority received 59 project applications for Mississippi representing a total request of over \$8.5 million in DRA funds. Our office was faced with the difficult task of selecting only seven of these projects for funding out of the allotted \$897,000.

We regret that Mississippi's DRA allocation lacked sufficient funds to cover the cost of your project. However, I would like to point out that the Governor has approved close to \$3,000,000 in economic and community development grants for Jefferson County and its municipalities over the past three years. Just this summer the Mississippi Development Authority awarded a \$384,540 CDBG grant to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors and a \$249,924 SMLPC grant to the Town of Fayette.

We do appreciate your hard work on the application and your continued efforts on behalf of the citizens of your community. The Governor remains committed to assisting the residents of Jefferson County in promoting the growth and development of their community. The work that you are doing is important to us and we welcome the opportunity to assist you in the future.

Sincerely,

Armerita Tell, Director
Office of Citizen and Community
Governor's Alternate to the DRA

cc: Supervisor Louis Green, Sr.