

Ms. Anne B. Pope
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance
500 James Robertson Parkway, 5th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Ms. Pope:

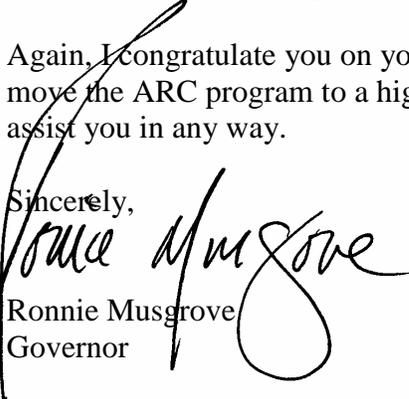
On behalf of the Mississippi ARC family I want to congratulate you on your appointment and confirmation as the new Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission. I look forward to working with you in making the ARC program one of the most innovative and successful federal/state programs for the 21st century.

The ARC program is vital to the success of our Northeast Mississippi counties and communities, and a program that I play a very active role in from the project selection process through the monitoring of program activities on a regular basis. The ARC grants that are awarded to worthy projects in our region make a difference by providing a community with clean, safe drinking water to providing broadband telecommunication services to underserved areas. My goal for the Mississippi ARC program is to reduce the number of distressed counties and to make these counties more viable in a global economy. Working together I know we can accomplish this lofty goal.

My Chief of Staff and ARC Alternate, Bill Renick and my ARC Program Manager, Dr. Mabel Murphree, look forward to meeting you. Bill and Mabel oversee the day-to-day operation of the ARC program for me and will work with you to make your transition as Federal Co-Chairman a pleasant one.

Again, I congratulate you on your new position and look forward to working with you to move the ARC program to a higher level. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Musgrove
Governor

cc: Mr. Bill Renick
Dr. Mabel Murphree