



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

While Mississippi is faring better than many other states in these troubled economic times, we are still facing severe budget constraints. In fact, on March 20, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee adopted the Revenue Estimating Committee's revised revenue estimates projecting that Fiscal Year 2009 general fund revenue fell \$301 million, or 5.9 percent, short of expectations, and for Fiscal Year 2010, the projected shortfall will be \$402.7 million, or 7.9 percent. To that end, I have been working with the Mississippi Legislature to make the best possible budget decisions from a string of ugly options.

My administration will continue to examine the intent of the stimulus dollars and the impact these funds will have on all Mississippians. It is important to create jobs in a fiscally responsible manner without creating unfunded mandates and new government programs. I ask that you release guidance regarding the uses of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund as soon as possible, as the Mississippi Legislature has already extended its 2009 Regular Session.

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This letter serves to fulfill my general obligation under Title XVI, Section 1607(a) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“the Act”) of 2009; however, we will continue to examine the various guidelines and fund-specific requirements associated with the Act’s dollars. With that process in mind, I hereby certify that the State of Mississippi will request funds provided by this Act and such funds will be used to create jobs and promote economic growth.

Sincerely,



Haley Barbour