

To: Governor Ronnie Musgrove
From: Bentley for Armerita Tell
Date: 6/24/03

RE: DRA Project Eligibility Determination

I have discussed the following information with Armerita. She wanted to make sure that you were aware of the DRA's most recent actions regarding grant applications.

The DRA has forwarded us a list of all projects that were turned in to their office for funding through Mississippi's share of the funds. As you may recall, Mississippi has been allocated **\$897,000** for spending on FY 2003 projects.

Please review the attached list, provided by the DRA, for a complete listing of Mississippi project applications – as well, as the Federal Co-Chairman's determination as to each projects "eligibility." **Ineligible projects** are highlighted.

Out of **60 total projects**, Pete Johnson has deemed **34** to be **ineligible**. This means over half of the projects submitted for funding by counties, cities, and non-profits in Mississippi do not even have a chance to be considered for funding by your office.

The list of ineligible projects is substantial and includes some projects that are touted as business development and some would have had immediate job creation impact.

Special Note:

The Natchez/Alcorn State project with Limbic Technologies to establish a high-tech, digital imaging system in Adams County (which would have an immediate impact of 60 jobs) has been deemed ineligible by Pete Johnson. This determination comes after your staff has met with representatives of Limbic and Natchez officials who claim that Pete Johnson informed them personally that he would look favorably on this project if you gave it your approval. An article that included praise for your help recently appeared in the Natchez Democrat.

Bill Renick has the list as well and plans to call Pete Johnson tomorrow to discuss the Natchez project in particular and the list of ineligible projects as a whole.