



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Phil Bryant
The Honorable William J. McCoy
The Honorable Alan Nunnelee
The Honorable Johnny W. Stringer
New Capitol
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Governor Bryant, Speaker McCoy,
Senator Nunnelee and Representative Stringer:

Yesterday, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee concluded its annual round of budget hearings.

My staff has informed me that many agencies have submitted requests for increased funding over their Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations. Clearly, the budget shortfall we face in FY 2011 will make it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain even level funding for most agencies. As I have noted both publicly and in discussions with each of you, the best estimates show Mississippi faces a budget shortfall anywhere between \$175 and \$350 million for the current fiscal year. This revenue shortfall is likely to continue into FY 2011 and FY 2012, and will be exacerbated in upcoming fiscal years by the end of the fiscal support provided by the federal stimulus program.

Because the budget hearings are a legislative function, my office did not dictate agency budget presentations and requests at the hearings. As you know, the Governor is required by law to submit an Executive Budget Recommendation to the Legislature by November 15, 2009. The EBR I provide to you will be my official recommendation for all state budgets for FY 2011. I expect that my recommendations will, by necessity, be very different than what many state agencies requested during this week's hearings.

As Mississippi grapples with declining revenues and increased costs, we cannot practice business as usual in state government. The numbers simply won't add up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Haley Barbour".

Haley Barbour