



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
STACEY E. PICKERING
STATE AUDITOR

January 21, 2010

The Honorable Johnny Stringer
Chairman, House Appropriations
Mississippi House of Representatives
Post Office Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215-1018

The Honorable Alan Nunnelee
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mississippi Senate
Post Office Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215-1018

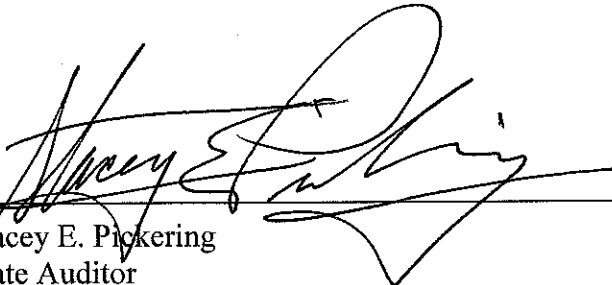
Dear Chairman Stringer and Chairman Nunnelee:

As revenue collections continue to fall below expectations, further budget cuts appear inevitable. Achieving the necessary savings to balance the FY 2010 budget will not be easy for any state agency, but it can be done more effectively and in a manner that minimizes personnel cuts as much as possible by giving agency directors more flexibility, including freedom from State Personnel Board regulations and restrictions and lump sum budgeting authority, reducing the need for layoffs. Failure to grant this flexibility will result in larger personnel cuts.

Allowing state agency heads more budget and personnel flexibility will allow state leaders to identify areas of savings and reduce personnel cuts. (This is a step toward performance based budgeting).

We ask that you authorize us to manage our agencies with as much flexibility as possible as we deal with the current fiscal crisis.

Sincerely,




Stacey E. Pickering
State Auditor



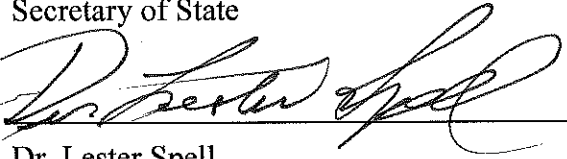
Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance



Tate Reeves
State Treasurer



Delbert Hosemann
Secretary of State



Dr. Lester Spell
Commissioner of Agriculture

Cc: Governor Haley Barbour
Lt. Governor Phil Bryant
Speaker of the House Billy McCoy