

State of Mississippi Office of the Lieutenant Governor DELBERT HOSEMANN Lieutenant Governor

March 19, 2022

Dear Supervisors:

Over the past several months, I have visited with many of you personally about the opportunity and enormous responsibility we have been presented with related to the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. While December 31, 2024 (the date the funds must be obligated) and December 31, 2026 (the date the funds must be expended) seem far into the future, I believe economic and political uncertainties require us to act now.

Our state is one of only four which have not begun obligating ARPA funds. Waiting another year to appropriate will mean less time to complete the jobs and fewer available contractors, subcontractors, and civil engineers. Furthermore, because of rampant inflation, our purchasing power is depleted the longer we wait.

The Senate hit the ground running in January, having already met with stakeholders, held public hearings, and developed an initial ARPA plan, which includes millions of dollars for water and sewer projects for counties. It is my strong recommendation the Mississippi Legislature act in the 2022 Legislative Session to begin appropriating these once-in-a-lifetime funds. If you agree, it would be very helpful for you to contact your legislators as soon as possible to urge them to do the same.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at <u>dhosemann@senate.ms.gov</u> if you have any questions. Thank you for all of your work on behalf of our state.

Sincerely,

C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr. Lieutenant Governor State of Mississippi