Dear Friends-

I am pleased to announce the Secretary of State's Office will launch a new online filing system for existing and potential businesses in Mississippi on August 25th. This convenient software will trim thousands of dollars in expenses by the Agency, lower costs for citizens, and promote job growth.

For years, companies looking to do business in Mississippi were forced to use the mail or make a trip to Jackson to conduct business with our Agency. Now, with the click of a mouse in their office or at home, anyone can conduct business with the State.

The new online filing system will launch August 25th. Mississippi is the first state in the nation to provide online filing for *all* of its business services.

Requiring the use of the online filing system will save the State of Mississippi thousands in taxpayer dollars, by reducing paper, postage and manpower to process the documents. We ask that the public be patient as we integrate this new system, which will be a convenience for both small businesses and promote job growth in our State.

Paper business filings will continue to be accepted through December 31, 2014. Beginning in 2015, all users must utilize the online filing system.

I encourage every business owner or anyone interested in starting their own business or anyone operating an existing business to visit our website at <u>www.sos.ms.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Delbert Hosemann Secretary of State