



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs
(601) 359-1163/cell: (662) 312-5897
Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Kelly Shannon, Public Relations Representative
(601) 359-1137/cell: (601) 750-3316
Kelly@mdac.ms.gov

Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson Calls for Relief for Mississippi Workers, Farmers and Loggers, Asks for Emergency Fuel Relief

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson is calling on Mississippi leaders to declare an economic emergency and take action to lower fuel costs for Mississippi workers, farmers and the timber industry during the peak harvest season.

Commissioner Gipson is asking state leaders to consider any temporary measures to provide relief from rising gasoline and diesel fuel costs, which he says have already placed significant financial strain on farmers, loggers and other Mississippi workers.

“On behalf of the working people of Mississippi, I encourage the Governor to review and act as necessary to provide fuel tax relief for Mississippians,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “If there are construction projects that may be affected, this relief can include calling the Legislature into special session to approve projects as well as special temporary provisions to provide whatever relief we can muster to help our people get through these crushing fuel prices.”

Gipson suggested declaring an economic emergency that would temporarily suspend the state fuel tax on gasoline and diesel and allow farmers and loggers to use off-road diesel to expand available supply.

“These fuel prices are breaking the backbone of Mississippi’s economy,” added Gipson. “We have been dealing with this for several months. Our farmers, loggers and working people cannot endure much more of this. Other states have put similar orders in place. Our neighbors Louisiana and Alabama have done this, and I believe it’s time for Mississippi to act. I appreciate the Governor’s office looking into any and all options for relief as soon as possible.”

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