



PROCLAMATION
IN SUPPORT OF THE WOOD ENERGY INDUSTRY IN MISSISSIPPI

WHEREAS, with 19.8 million acres of forestland, Mississippi boasts a strong forestry industry which generates \$12.3 billion dollars in positive economic impact to the state and provides nearly 70,000 jobs for Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, The Wood Energy Industry offers opportunities for Mississippi to create new jobs throughout the supply chain and sustains our often underutilized skilled forestry workforce. Wood energy and its trade offers a boost to a decades-old Mississippi forestry tradition by leveraging a supply chain that is already in place; and

WHEREAS, The Wood Energy Industry supports healthy forests. The ingredients for wood pellets are taken from working, managed forests that are replanted or naturally regenerated, so that Mississippi's forests are continually growing and renewing. Providing an efficient use for Mississippi's lower-grade wood fiber supports sustainable forest management and allows larger trees more access to nutrients from the sun and soil; and

WHEREAS, The City of Vicksburg, Mississippi is the nation's 11th largest inland port based on trip-ton miles. The Port of Vicksburg is designated a Foreign Trade Zone, Port of Entry, and maintains a United States Customs Service. The City of Vicksburg exports many goods, including chemicals, metals, and wood materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg, MS - Mayor George Flaggs, Jr., North Ward Alderman Michael Mayfield, Sr., and South Ward Alderman Willis T. Thompson - do hereby resolve the City of Vicksburg's support for the Wood Energy Industry in Mississippi, capitalizing on our strength in the energy and natural resources industries, to boost the state's economy.

Dated: October 10, 2016



Mayor George Flaggs, Jr.

Alderman Michael A. Mayfield, Sr.

Alderman Willis T. Thompson