



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

September 22, 2021

To Members of the Mississippi Legislature

Dear Members of the Mississippi Senate:

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and enjoying time with your family. The purpose of this letter is to notify all of you of the position of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce regarding this agency's potential role in a medical marijuana program.

Notwithstanding what you may have been told or what may be represented in the future, I want you to know I remain adamantly opposed to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce having any role in regulating medical marijuana so long as marijuana remains a prohibited Schedule 1 Controlled Substance under State and/or Federal law.

Depending on the wording of the bill (a draft of which I have yet to be provided), not only would this proposal require me to violate my oath of office, but it also would fly in the face of the majority of voters who passed Initiative 65 with no regulatory role for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

As you move forward with this process if you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to give me a call. I would welcome an invitation to appear at any committee meeting at the appropriate time.

In closing, I appreciate your service to the people of Mississippi. We all represent the same citizens and we owe it to them to get this right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andy Gipson", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER" and "DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE".

Andy Gipson  
Commissioner