

# MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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## WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

February 17, 2014

Billy Lawrence, Mayor  
Town of Caledonia  
P.O. Box 100  
Caledonia, MS 39740

RE: Small Municipalities/Limited Counties Grant Fund

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

I have had more than one person tell me, you may not be interested in getting a grant from the above mentioned fund. It is also been said to me any item that would benefit the Town, which might bring credit to me or show I have helped the Town.

I feel, surely, this is an exaggeration or an untruth as the Town of Caledonia needs many infrastructure improvements and the above fund is intended exactly for same. As Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said money must be approved by our committee, that is simply the laws of the State of Mississippi and will be done again in 2014.

As Chairman of the Committee, I normally have the ability to see or have influence on one grant per year. You might remember last year Caledonia Natural Gas District received a \$150,000.00 grant. It was for the purpose of a building, and the opportunity of having monetary help on the purchase of natural gas equipment, such as a compressor.

I have been lucky enough to be named the Chairman of one of the two money committees in the Legislature. They are the two most powerful committees in the House of Representatives and the Mississippi Legislature. This is the first time a Lowndes County person has been Chairman of one of the two such committees, since the days of Senator Bill Bergan in the 1970s. I am going to continue to do all I can to help the State of Mississippi, and certainly my home county. If I can benefit Caledonia, I will certainly do same.

I am also going to take the position, you are more interested in benefitting the Town of Caledonia and its citizens, than worrying who may take credit for a grant to this growing area. If you or your family dislike me, I am certainly sorry, as I hold no animosity towards you or yours. I will also not believe you dislike unless you tell me yourself. Having known you for so many years, though you were so far ahead of me in school at Caledonia, you may not have remembered me from school. I certainly did enjoy your father. Mr. Oazie often spoke with my brother and myself about the St. Louis Cardinals baseball as he was such an avid fan.

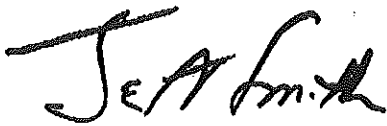
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Caledonia must accept any grant or award, and I know Jane Kilgore and others are working on such a project. It would enhance and upgrade the street lights in Caledonia. I will move forward in this process with the Mississippi Development Authority (which makes the above grant awards) and see if a grant can be awarded to Caledonia for its lighting.

Best wishes in running Caledonia as I still come to my law office either one or two days per week.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey C. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Member of Mississippi House of Representatives  
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee  
JCS/sew

cc: Bill Darnell, Vice Mayor  
Chris Hemphill, Attorney