

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Commissioner Chris Brown MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

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MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER CHRIS BROWN APPLAUDS HISTORIC LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE UTILITY SERVICES

Tupelo, Mississippi – Mississippi Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District, Chris Brown, took time this week to applaud the signing of Senate Bill 2453. This landmark bill empowers the PSC to intervene in instances where service quality is compromised, as exemplified by the challenges facing the Holly Springs Utility District.

Commissioner Brown's tireless advocacy for improved utility services predates his tenure as Public Service Commissioner going back to his time as Chairman of Conservation and Water Resources in the Mississippi House of Representatives. During his tenure in the legislature, Commissioner Brown held multiple open meetings with state and federal officials to shed light on the challenges faced by those within the Holly Springs Utility District. These meetings featured testimonies from Holly Springs residents, business owners, and public utility workers. It is from these hearings that legislative action culminated into Senate Bill 2453.

"The signing of Senate Bill 2453 gives me great hope and serves as a historic moment that underscores our collective commitment to ensuring reliable utility services for all Mississippians," Commissioner Brown remarked. "Addressing the concerns of ratepayers has been my top priority. Today's milestone represents a significant step forward in delivering tangible solutions to communities like Holly Springs, where inadequate utility services have imposed undue hardships on residents." Senate Bill 2453 grants the PSC jurisdiction over municipally run public utilities operating more than one mile outside city limits, enabling regulatory oversight to address service deficiencies effectively. "By exercising our regulatory authority responsibly, we aim to implement measures that foster improvements in service reliability and quality, thereby enhancing the well-being and prosperity of our under-served communities," Commissioner Brown stated.

Commissioner Brown expressed gratitude to state legislators for advancing Senate Bill 2453 and reaffirmed the PSC's unwavering commitment to serving the public interest.

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