Dear (Representative or Senator\_\_\_\_):

I am writing this letter to voice our (city’s/town’s) encouragement to the Mississippi Legislature to include meaningful funding for cities and towns in any legislation for infrastructure funding that might be considered during a special session.

Cities, towns, and villages in Mississippi are responsible for over 23,000 street miles. In our (city/town) we have \_\_\_ miles of streets that must be maintained. The cost of paving these streets has risen over 300% in the past 10 years. When you consider the increased cost of maintenance, along with the costly federal unfunded mandates EPA has imposed on our municipalities, it’s easy to understand that municipal revenue streams have not been able to keep up with local infrastructure needs.

With the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing states to tax internet sales for companies without a nexus in the state, there will be a significant increase in use/internet sales tax collected by the State of Mississippi. This revenue needs to be shared with cities and towns. This is the legislature’s opportunity to “Balance the Scales with Internet Sales” and treat internet sales tax as they do traditional sales tax and divert at least 18.5% back to the cities based on the point of delivery of the products sold. At the very least, the Legislature should set aside a portion of all Use Tax to be diverted to cities on a per capita basis to be used for water, sewer, and street infrastructure.

Cities and towns are the economic engines of this state. If we can improve our infrastructure, the state only stands to gain. The climate for economic development and job creation will be improved and retail should grow, increasing overall sales tax collections for the state.

Thank you for your service as (Representative/Senator) of District \_\_\_. We are counting on your support to make sure cities and towns receive additional funding for water, sewer and street infrastructure repairs and maintenance. It is time to “Balance the Scales with Internet Sales.”

Sincerely,

(Title) (Name)