



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 3, 2017

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## U.S. Senator Thad Cochran Receives the 2017 Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award

*The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to present award during a lunch briefing*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 3, 2017) – The Honorable Thad Cochran, Senator for Mississippi, will receive the 2017 Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award today.

The awards were presented in conjunction with a Congressional briefing hosted by IEDC titled “Why Invest in Economic Development: a Jobs Discussion.”

The Congressional Leadership in Economic Development Award recognizes a member of Congress who has made significant contributions to the field of economic development. The award is given to a leader for his or her continuous support of economic development, and/or for intense work on a single piece of legislation.

“As a long-standing Senate member, Thad Cochran has shown extensive support for economic development in almost every aspect, from job creation and retention, to disaster recovery, to infrastructure improvement. IEDC shows its appreciation for Senator Cochran’s support throughout the years with this distinct honor.” – Michael Langley, FM, CEO of Greater MSP, 2017 IEDC Chairman of the Board.

Throughout his career, Senator Cochran has promoted economic development and educational opportunity for communities throughout the country. As a member of the Senate since 1979, and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Cochran has championed programs to rebuild communities in the wake of natural disasters. In 2005, he spearheaded the effort to provide more than \$87 billion in supplemental federal assistance to Mississippi and other Gulf Coast states devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

“As a Mississippian, I have seen the results of Senator Cochran’s hard work throughout the state to improve the lives of its citizens. He has dedicated an incredible amount of time and effort to the economic development cause, and for that I am honored to nominate him for this award.” – Jay C. Moon, President and CEO of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association

Recognizing the importance of training and educational opportunities for those who need it most, Senator Cochran cosponsored the On-the-Job Training Act of 2015, which authorized discretionary grants for adult and dislocated worker training. He also was a champion of a grant application from the Delta Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization focused on improving educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in distressed communities. The alliance received nearly \$30 million in federal funding to promote early childhood education, high school graduation, and college attendance in the Mississippi Delta.



“Senator Cochran is a valued voice for economic and community development in Congress. Without his support, the Delta region would not have the opportunities we now can provide to our citizens.” – Frank Howell, Director of Development at the Delta Council

Senator Cochran has continuously supported programs and legislation that promote economic and community development and has been an ardent supporter of the Economic Development Administration and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) throughout his career.

In 2016, he announced \$3.38 million in new DRA grants to support eight infrastructure and community development projects throughout Mississippi. In total, more than \$7.2 million will be invested in quality of life and community-economic improvement projects such as the Mississippi Readers-to-Leaders initiative, which provides training, technical assistance, and resources for education paraprofessionals in rural Mississippi.

### **About the International Economic Development Council**

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers typically work for cities, counties, states, public private partnerships and chamber of commerce and promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC’s members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public-private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. IEDC’s members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. [www.iedcONLINE.org](http://www.iedcONLINE.org).