



MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

125 West North Street • Post Office Box 608
Canton, Mississippi 39046
601-855-5500 • Facsimile 601-855-5759
www.madison-co.com

May 4, 2016

Mrs. Katie Bryant Snell
Post Office Box 608
Canton, MS 39046

Mrs. Snell,

Our auditors, Fortenberry and Ballard, PC, 1929 Spillway Road, Brandon, MS 39047, are conducting an audit of our financial statements at September 30, 2015 and for the fiscal year then ended. This letter will serve as our consent for you to furnish to our auditors all the information requested herein. Accordingly, please provide to them the information requested below involving matters with respect to which you have been engaged and to which you have devoted substantive attention on behalf of Madison County, Mississippi in the form of legal consultation or representation.

Pending or Threatened Litigation, Claims, and Assessments (excluding unasserted claims and assessments)

Please prepare a description of all material pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments (excluding unasserted claims and assessments). Materiality for purposes of this letter includes items involving amounts exceeding **\$250,000** individually or in the aggregate. The description of each matter should include:

- 1) the nature of the litigation;
- 2) the progress of the matter to date;
- 3) how management of Madison County, Mississippi is responding or intends to respond to the litigation; e.g., to contest the case vigorously or to seek an out-of-court settlement; and
- 4) an evaluation of the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome and an estimate, if one can be made, of the amount or range of potential loss.

Also, please identify any pending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments with respect to which you have been engaged but as to which you have not devoted substantive attention.

Unasserted Claims and Assessments

We have represented to our auditors that there are no unasserted possible claims or assessments that you have advised us are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with *FASB Accounting Standards Codification 450, Contingencies*.

We understand that, whenever, in the course of performing legal services for us with respect to a matter recognized to involve an unasserted possible claim or assessment that may call for financial statement disclosure, if you have formed a professional conclusion that we should disclose or consider disclosure concerning such possible claim or assessment, as a matter of professional responsibility to us, you will so advise us and will consult with us concerning the question of such disclosure and the applicable requirements of *FASB Accounting Standards Codification 450, Contingencies* (excerpts of which can be found in the ABA's *Auditor's Letter Handbook*). Please specifically confirm to our auditors that our understanding is correct.

Response

Your response should include matters that existed as of September 30, 2015, and during the period from that date to the effective date of your response. Please specify the date of your response if it is other than the date of reply.

Please specifically identify the nature of, and reasons for, any limitations on your response.

Our auditors expect to have the audit completed about April 30, 2016. They would appreciate receiving your reply by that date with a specified effective date no earlier than April 15, 2016. You may also be requested to provide updates to your written response at a later date. We appreciate your timely response to such requests.

Other Matters

Please also indicate the amount we were indebted to you for services and expenses (billed and unbilled) on September 30, 2015.

Very truly yours,

Trey Baxter, President
Madison County Board of Supervisors



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Fortenberry and Ballard, PC
1929 Spillway Road
Brandon, MS 39047

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Madison County, Mississippi, which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of September 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement. An omission or misstatement that is monetarily small in amount could be considered material as a result of qualitative factors.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of _____, the following representations made to you during your audit.

Financial Statements

- 1) We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter dated February 16, 2016, including our responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP and for preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria.
- 2) The financial statements referred to above are fairly presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP and include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
- 3) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- 4) We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

- 5) Significant assumptions we used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- 6) Related party relationships and transactions, including revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 7) Adjustments or disclosures have been made for all events, including instances of noncompliance, subsequent to the date of the financial statements that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements [or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs].
- 8) The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole for each opinion unit. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter.
- 9) The effects of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- 10) Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the county is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed.

Information Provided

- 11) We have provided you with:
 - a) Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters and all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
 - b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
 - c) Unrestricted access to persons within the county from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
 - d) Minutes of the meetings of the Madison County Board of Supervisors or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
- 12) All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
- 13) We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- 14) We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the county and involves—
 - o Management,
 - o Employees who have significant roles in internal control, or
 - o Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 15) We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the county's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators, or others.
- 16) We have no knowledge of instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements, or abuse, whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
- 17) We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- 18) We have disclosed to you the identity of the county's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Government—specific

- 19) There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
- 20) We have taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or abuse that you have reported to us.
- 21) We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- 22) We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- 23) We have provided our views on reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as our planned corrective actions, for the report.
- 24) The county has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
- 25) We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to us, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts, and legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- 26) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws and regulations that we believe have a material effect on the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance.
- 27) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances, which have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of noncompliance with provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 28) We have identified and disclosed to you all instances that have occurred or are likely to have occurred, of abuse that could be quantitatively or qualitatively material to the financial statements or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.
- 29) There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
- 30) As part of your audit, you assisted with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and schedule of expenditures of federal awards. We acknowledge our responsibility as it relates to those nonaudit services, including that we assume all management responsibilities; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably within senior management, who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services performed; and accept responsibility for the results of the services. We have reviewed, approved, and accepted responsibility for those financial statements and related notes [and schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
- 31) The county has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets nor has any asset been pledged as collateral.
- 32) The county has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
- 33) The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures and other related organizations.
- 34) The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34.

- 35) All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASBS Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
- 36) Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and classifications of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
- 37) Investments, derivative instruments, and land and other real estate held by endowments are properly valued.
- 38) Provisions for uncollectible receivables have been properly identified and recorded.
- 39) Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
- 40) Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
- 41) Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
- 42) Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly disclosed.
- 43) Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
- 44) The government meets the GASB-established requirements for accounting for eligible infrastructure assets using the modified approach.
- 45) We have appropriately disclosed the county's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.
- 46) We are following our established accounting policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available. That policy determines the fund balance classifications for financial reporting purposes.
- 47) We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.
- 48) With respect to federal award programs—
 - a) We are responsible for understanding and complying with and have complied with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, including requirements relating to preparation of the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
 - b) We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the schedule of expenditures of federal awards (SEFA) in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133 §310.b, and we believe the SEFA, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 §310.b. The methods of measurement or presentation of the SEFA have not changed from those used in the prior period and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the SEFA.
 - c) If the SEFA is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the SEFA no later than the date we issue the SEFA and the auditor's report thereon.

- d) We have identified and disclosed to you all of our government programs and related activities subject to OMB Circular A-133, and have included in the SEFA, expenditures made during the audit period for all awards provided by federal agencies in the form of grants, federal cost-reimbursement contracts, loans, loan guarantees, property (including donated surplus property), cooperative agreements, interest subsidies, insurance, food commodities, direct appropriations, and other direct assistance.
- e) We are responsible for understanding and complying with, and have complied with, the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements related to each of our federal programs and have identified and disclosed to you the requirements of laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are considered to have a direct and material effect on each major program.
- f) We are responsible for establishing and maintaining, and have established and maintained, effective internal control over compliance for federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that we are managing our federal awards in compliance with laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a material effect on our federal programs. We believe the internal control system is adequate and is functioning as intended.
- g) We have made available to you all contracts and grant agreements (including amendments, if any) and any other correspondence with federal agencies or pass-through entities relevant to federal programs and related activities.
- h) We have received no requests from a federal agency to audit one or more specific programs as a major program.
- i) We have complied with the direct and material compliance requirements (except for noncompliance disclosed to you), including when applicable, those set forth in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement*, relating to federal awards and have identified and disclosed to you all amounts questioned and all known noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements of federal awards.
- j) We have disclosed any communications from grantors and pass-through entities concerning possible noncompliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including communications received from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditor's report.
- k) We have disclosed to you the findings received and related corrective actions taken for previous audits, attestation engagements, and internal or external monitoring that directly relate to the objectives of the compliance audit, including findings received and corrective actions taken from the end of the period covered by the compliance audit to the date of the auditor's report.
- l) Amounts claimed or used for matching were determined in accordance with relevant guidelines in OMB Circular A-87, *Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments*, and OMB's *Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments*.
- m) We have disclosed to you our interpretation of compliance requirements that may have varying interpretations.
- n) We have made available to you all documentation related to compliance with the direct and material compliance requirements, including information related to federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements.
- o) We have disclosed to you the nature of any subsequent events that provide additional evidence about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period affecting noncompliance during the reporting period.
- p) There are no such known instances of noncompliance with direct and material compliance requirements that occurred subsequent to the period covered by the auditor's report.

- q) No changes have been made in internal control over compliance or other factors that might significantly affect internal control, including any corrective action we have taken regarding significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance, subsequent to the date as of which compliance was audited.
- r) Federal program financial reports and claims for advances and reimbursements are supported by the books and records from which the financial statements have been prepared.
- s) The copies of federal program financial reports provided you are true copies of the reports submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the respective federal agency or pass-through entity, as applicable.
- t) We have monitored subrecipients to determine that they have expended pass-through assistance in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and have met the requirements of OMB Circular A-133.
- u) We have taken appropriate action, including issuing management decisions, on a timely basis after receipt of subrecipients' auditor's reports that identified noncompliance with laws, regulations, or the provisions of contracts or grant agreements and have ensured that subrecipients have taken the appropriate and timely corrective action on findings.
- v) We have considered the results of subrecipient audits and have made any necessary adjustments to our books and records.
- w) We have charged costs to federal awards in accordance with applicable cost principles.
- x) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the summary schedule of prior audit findings to include all findings required to be included by OMB Circular A-133 and we have provided you with all information on the status of the follow-up on prior audit findings by federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, including all management decisions.
- y) We are responsible for and have accurately prepared the auditee section of the Data Collection Form as required by OMB Circular A-133.
- z) We are responsible for preparing and implementing a corrective action plan for each audit finding.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Title: President, Board of Supervisors

Title: Chancery Clerk