**SAMPLE LETTER TO YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR - EDIT AT WILL**

Date

The Honorable (Senator or Representative's Full Name)

Mississippi State Capitol Building

Post Office Box 1018

Jackson, MS 38215-1018

Dear Senator (Senator or Representative's Last Name):

As a resident of the State of Mississippi and (Enter Name of County) County, I ask you to consider co-sponsoring a bill to make the month of April **Mississippi's Native Plant Month**. While Governor Reeves signed a proclamation making April Mississippi Native Plant Month for 2022, passing it into law would preclude the need to request a proclamation every year.

Representative Jill Ford (R) and Senator Walter Michel (R) have agreed to sponsor this bill in the Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate, respectively. **They are asking for co-sponsors, and I sincerely hope you will consider joining their efforts by signing on as a co-sponsor. Your support could make all the difference in this critical non-partisan effort.**

One simple way to protect our air, water, and soil to maintain healthy ecosystems is to plant *many* more native plants that support pollinators and native wildlife. Given the importance of native plants, designating April as Mississippi Native Plant Month into law would encourage the public to learn about the benefits of native plants to pollinators and wildlife.

There is a strong and growing movement across the United States recognizing the importance of native plants. In 2021, a resolution was passed in the U.S. Senate (S. Res. 109), designating April as **National Native Plant Month**. This resolution was renewed in 2022 (S. Res. 570), and the plan is for renewal again in 2023. Following the lead of Ohio making April Native Plant Month a law in 2019, **I hope that Mississippi will become the second state in the nation and the first in the South to pass this law.**

**Senator Michel and Representative Ford will be pre-filing soon and need co-sponsors ASAP**. I would so appreciate your **supporting this measure by signing on today.** Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*(Sign)*

Your name,

Your street address

Your phone number

\*Senator Walter Michel (R) (601) 359-2220 or wmichel@senate.ms.gov;

\*Representative Jill Ford (R) (601) 359-3770 or jford@house.ms.gov.