



Litter is everybody's problem. It costs money to clean up litter- lots of it. The Keep America Beautiful (KAB) organization estimates that cleanup and prevention programs cost American **taxpayers \$11.5 billion each year** — not counting the costs of decreased property values, decreased commerce and tourism and health effects. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) spends over \$3 million a year picking up litter along Mississippi roadways.

KAB has the results from the largest litter study ever conducted in the U.S. and what it calls the first major litter study done in 40 years. KAB conducted a series of surveys in 2008 and 2009 examining littering. Some findings:

- Plastic litter is up 165%
- Of all littering observed, cigarette butts play a prominent role
- **In total, there are at least 51.2 billion pieces of litter left on roadways in the U.S.** That comes out to an average of 6,729 per mile, or more than one piece for each foot of roadway.

This should be used for other services, such as repairing the State's roads and bridges or jobs. Thousands of potholes can be repaired with the money spent on litter clean up.

MDOT invites you to be part of the solution.

Put litter where it belongs- in the trash can!

Pick It Up Mississippi!