



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**HALEY BARBOUR**  
GOVERNOR

July 16, 2007

Honorable Maxine Waters  
Chairwoman, Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity  
United States House of Representatives  
2344 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Judy Biggert  
Ranking Member, Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community and  
Opportunity  
United States House of Representatives  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member Biggert:

I am writing to you regarding Representative Gene Taylor's Multiple Peril Insurance Act, H.R. 920. I understand that you will be holding a hearing on Tuesday, July 17, to consider this legislation and the property insurance problems facing our nation from natural catastrophes. Hurricane Katrina demonstrated holes in the private insurance market and the National Flood Insurance Program, and I support Congress considering legislation which would create a new program in the National Flood Insurance Program to enable the purchase of wind and flood risk in one policy.

Since the immediate days after Hurricane Katrina, I have said that insurance will be a major factor in Mississippi's recovery from the worst natural disaster in American history. Homeowners and business owners who cannot get property insurance, or who cannot afford unrealistic rates, cannot contribute to the rebuilding effort of the Gulf Coast. Today there are approximately 40,000 policies in the Mississippi Windstorm Underwriting Association, the insurer of last resort, up from 16,000 policies at the time of Hurricane Katrina, proof that there is a lack of availability of private insurance.

In Mississippi, we are working to address this failed system, and in March of this year, I signed into law the Mississippi Growth and Redevelopment Act of 2007 to more broadly mitigate the

increase of insurance premiums across the state. However, action is needed at the federal level to ensure the long-term stability of our insurance market.

I am pleased to learn that Representative Taylor and your subcommittee are reviewing the growing coastal homeowners' insurance affordability and availability problem, and I appreciate your willingness to consider options for an all perils program.

We must work together: federal, state, and private to create a financially sound and taxpayer friendly solution. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley Barbour". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Haley Barbour

HRB:mt

