

GENE TAYLOR
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

<http://www.house.gov/genetaylor>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

January 27, 2006

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Director R. David Paulison
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Director Paulison:

I request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss the urgent need for FEMA and FEMA's contractors to speed up and complete the task of supplying temporary housing in Mississippi.

Six months after Katrina, 10,000 Mississippi households still wait for trailers. Despite the overwhelming need, only six travel trailers were delivered in Hancock County this week. My staff was told that FEMA temporarily stopped delivery of new trailers in order to force Bechtel to make those already in the county ready for occupancy.

I agree that FEMA should push its contractors to reduce the prolonged period between delivery and occupancy, but that is no excuse to stop delivering new trailers in the middle of winter. Bechtel is paid well to do both jobs. FEMA should demand that they do both in a much more timely and efficient manner. If Bechtel needs more workers or subcontractors, they should hire them. Today's *Sun Herald* newspaper reported that unemployment rates on the Gulf Coast are as high as 22 percent.

Additionally, I continue to be concerned about the poor quality of the trailers being delivered in Mississippi. Far too many new trailers require immediate maintenance before they can be occupied. Please tell me how FEMA is holding the manufacturers responsible for the additional costs and delays.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you. Please have your office contact Courtney Littig or Miriam Warren in my Washington office at 202-225-5772 to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,



GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress