

Democratic Congressional Delegation Visit to Mississippi Coast, August 13, 2007

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Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn led a delegation of Democratic Members of Congress on a fact-finding trip to Louisiana and Mississippi August 12-14. The delegation came to Mississippi on Monday, August 13. Other Members of Congress who made the trip to Mississippi included Representatives Mel Watt (NC), Sanford Bishop (GA), Dennis Cardoza (CA), Elijah Cummings (MD), Bobby Scott (VA), Charlie Melancon (LA), Carol Shea-Porter (NH), and Diane Watson (CA).

The Members were briefed by Dr. Sue Matheson, Superintendent of Pass Christian School District, Dr. Kim Stasny, Superintendent of the Bay St. Louis - Waveland School District, on the progress and the remaining difficulties facing the two districts that lost most of their school facilities. The Members visited the James family in Pass Christian, living in FEMA trailers as they rebuild their home. Pass Christian Mayor Leo "Chipper" McDermott led the delegation on a tour of the city, which lost most of its homes and almost all of its businesses to Katrina.

The Congressional Delegation then traveled across the bay to Bay St. Louis for a town meeting that focused on the need for insurance reform. The Members heard from Dave Treutel, Jr., and independent insurance agent in Bay St. Louis, and the vice-chairman of the Mississippi wind pool; Dr. Wesley McFarland, a retired physician who lost his home and was forced to sue State Farm in order to collect on the insurance coverage he was owed; Tish Haas Williams, Executive Director of the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; George Schloegel, the President and CEO of Hancock Bank; and Dave Dennis, President and CEO of Specialty Contractors and Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New Orleans.

Some of the press coverage of the trip:

Jackson Clarion Ledger:

Dems push wind policy

Lawmakers visiting Coast tout expansion of federal coverage

By Natalie Chandler

[Editorial: Insurance: Coastal customers need a solution](#)

[AP Photo gallery of Congressional Delegation](#)

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[Educators Share Recovery Frustrations With Congressional Visitors](#)

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