

## Multiple Peril Insurance Opinions

USA Today Editorial:

Our view on coastal insurance: Help Gulf recover, but don't subsidize the next disaster

Big expansion of federal program would promote risky development.

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/08/our-view-on-coa.html>

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To break the insurance-induced logjam, Mississippi leaders are lining up behind a proposal by Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., that would shift the risk to federal taxpayers. Taylor wants to broaden the National Flood Insurance Program - already a grossly underfunded boondoggle that encourages building in flood-prone areas and leaves the public holding the bag. It's

not hard to see why the idea is politically attractive on the coast.

It's also natural - and appropriate - to help people who have suffered so much. It's just hard to see why people in Kansas or Colorado should be compelled to help foot the bill for others to live near the beach.

Opposing view: Expand federal program

Covering wind and water damage would aid taxpayers, policy holders.

By Gene Taylor

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/08/opposing-view-1.html>

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The best way to protect taxpayers and policyholders from insurance company fraud is to allow the National Flood Insurance Program to offer both wind and flood coverage in one policy. The insurance industry will not cover flooding and does not want to offer wind coverage in hurricane-risk areas. It has dumped \$600 billion of coastal risk into state wind pools and other state-sponsored insurers of last resort.

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Multiple Peril Insurance Act would benefit every taxpayer in America by ensuring that more disaster costs are covered by insurance premiums instead of by costly and inefficient disaster assistance programs.

Clarion Ledger Editorial:  
Katrina: Problems continue two years later

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070829/OPINION01/708290325/1001>

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Primarily, the issue of insurance on the Coast is a target of concern, and at a town meeting at Pass Christian Aug. 13, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., pledged action.

Residents

begged for help. Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Director Tish Williams spoke of a local dentist whose pre-Katrina insurance premium of \$2,473 rose to \$16,554 after the storm. A church's premium went from \$20,000 to \$70,000. "We believe we must turn to you, Congress, to fix the insurance mess we are in," she said.

A

bill called the Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2007 authored by 4th District U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor, who lost his Bay St. Louis house to Katrina, would add wind coverage to the National Flood Insurance Program and is pending when Congress resumes this month.

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issues of the Coast extend beyond our borders, from Texas to New York. Insurers have always accepted the 100-year average for forecasting hurricanes and based actuarial rates on their frequency and severity from it, but climate change is now accepted. Mississippi's problem with insurance is now the nation's problem.

Mississippi Press Editorial:  
Our Opinion: Housing, insurance issues remain

<http://www.gulflive.com/news/mississippipress/index.ssf?/base/news/1188382573107940.xml>

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Hurricane Katrina was a massive hit and it exposed a troubling insurance gap that demands resolution. Property that was designated as being located outside flood zones, flooded. Property owners who thought they were covered against a hurricane soon discovered they were not as the storm damage was attributed to water rather than wind. After Katrina, property owners have been subjected to a surge in the price of insurance coverage. Coastal areas need affordable insurance and that is likely best achieved if a plan such as the one championed by Rep. Gene Taylor is adopted. Taylor's plan is simple. Add wind to the national flood insurance program. That's a simple enough solution to a problem that's plagued coastal areas for decades.