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## Miss. Congressman Calls for Federal Probe into Insurers' Katrina Practices

January 10, 2007

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U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor has called for a congressional investigation into the post-Hurricane Katrina practices of private insurance companies.

Taylor, D-Miss., made the announcement Monday at a public forum in Ocean Springs.



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“This is going to be a fight,” Taylor said. “These guys have dumped a lot of money in campaigns. They dumped \$27 million in the presidential one.”

In a Jan. 5 letter to Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services, Taylor asked for hearings on “the excessive premium increases, market withdrawals, and other actions to force states to make concessions or to assume more coastal risks.”

“I have long suspected that State Farm, Allstate, Nationwide and a few other insurers agreed to aggressively deny Katrina wind claims as the away with blanket denials if the others had been paying claims.”

Insurance companies are not federally regulated, and hundreds of Katrina victims, including Taylor and Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., are suing the Taylor lost his Bay St. Louis home in the storm, and Lott’s Pascagoula home was also destroyed.

“Thousands of homes were battered by four or five hours of hurricane-force winds before the surge inundation,” he wrote in the letter to Franl



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“Eyewitnesses across the coast reported widespread structural damage before the surge, with the surge and the winds of the eyewall finishir without first experiencing hours of destructive winds.”

Taylor asked residents at Monday’s meeting for help making his case, asking them to provide their insurance “horror stories.”

“I need some stories to tell the American public, to build sentiment with a reluctant Congress, that this is what we need to do,” he said.

Taylor has asked coast residents to provide pictures and documentation of their post-Katrina insurance stories in case Congress decides to ii

“What we’re asking for is a before photo, and an after photo,” he said. “What did your insurance tell you they’d pay on your policy? Did you h;

Taylor wants a national all-perils insurance policy, federal oversight of the property insurance industry and repeal of its exemption from antitru

they would handle Katrina claims.

"I think they called one another and said 'if you don't pay, we won't pay,'" Taylor said.

Information from: The Mississippi Press,  
<http://www.gulfive.com>, and The Sun Herald,  
<http://www.sunherald.com>

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My son stayed until daylight on 2nd st. in Pass Christian. He is lucky to be alive but he knows what type of damage was done by the wind. My adjuster told me not to worry. I ... rea



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I am proud to see American Men Fighting for our rights. It brings back the Spirit of America. We have more wars inside America then we do outside from the Top to the bottom. F... i



*American Woman* says:

Keep his numbers current and do not use his name until he is in a courtroom. You don't want to risk losing him. The truth is on the way. I caught my ADJUSTER lying. My Agent...

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