Mobile Press-Register The Mississippi Press April 16, 2010

Letter: No subsidy for insurance companies

Travelers' wind proposal doesn't include subsidy

I would like to commend Sen. Roger Wicker for hosting last week's candid and highly productive insurance roundtable to explore long-term solutions to the coastal insurance crisis.

While the April 9 article, "Insurance leaders call for federal reinsurance aid," highlighted several ideas presented at the roundtable, it might be read to imply that the Travelers' proposal for federal reinsurance for extreme events amounts to a subsidy for insurance companies.

I wanted to clarify that the reinsurance component of the Travelers' proposal is not a subsidy; it would provide support for coastal consumers without creating additional costs for government or taxpayers. As one piece of the total proposal, this approach would help improve the affordability and availability of coastal windstorm insurance.

At Travelers, we recognize that a viable coastal insurance market is important for Mississippi's economy, and we feel a responsibility to be engaged in finding a solution to this issue.

GREG TOCZYDLOWSKI President of Personal Insurance Travelers Hartford, Conn.