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Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal Mississippi Insurance Department Jackson, Mississippi Tuesday, January 27, 2009 For additional information, please contact Donna Cromeans, Public Relations Director 601-359-3569

Chaney: Mississippi Market Healthier Than Florida Reassures State Policyholders

JACKSON – With today's announcement of State Farm withdrawing from the Florida property and casualty market that will affect over 1 million policyholders, Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney wants to quickly reassure state policyholders that no such action is planned for Mississippi.

"This morning I met with a State Farm Vice-President and talked with counsel from the company and was not informed of any similar actions planned for our state at this time based on existing law. We will continue to work with all companies in providing an available, accountable, and affordable market in Mississippi, and look for solutions, not scapegoats, in solving the insurance crisis we are all facing," Chaney said in a letter sent to Governor Barbour and other state legislators this afternoon.

Commissioner Chaney also states in the letter that the Mississippi insurance market is in a very different and much healthier position than the Florida market.

"The Mississippi Insurance Department has worked very diligently to avoid finding Mississippi in the same situation as Florida," Chaney said.

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