



What Community Leaders Are Saying

Bob Merchant, CEO, Halter Marine

“Over the years since we have recovered, it has been very difficult for individuals who want to live in Jackson County to find adequate housing and it is largely because of the rules that were put in place because of Katrina.”

Brian Gautier, Chevron Pascagoula

“The more regulations we put in place the harder it is for everyday working folks to try to get ahead.”

Anthony McCorvey, Mississippi Power

“The City of Pascagoula has so much potential, because of the employers we have here, the natural resources we have here. It’s a great place to live, work and play, but we simply don’t have the housing options because of these misguided federal regulations that we have here.”

Mary Martha Henson, Jackson County Economic Development Foundation

“We are talking about middle income, hardworking people that want to live in the community they work in. They want to buy property here. They want to be invested in this community, and they are not given a choice to do that.”

Jessica Lewis, Singing River Hospital

“If we do not have affordable housing to recruit our local nurses as we are training them in partnerships with our community colleges, they are going to leave Mississippi and our local areas. They will leave our local community to gain more affordable housing where their pay checks will not be as impacted.”

Clayton Legear, Merchants & Marine Bank

“In particular, the substantial improvement rule has really handcuffed a lot of our area residents and prevented them from making routine maintenance that anyone in any other part of the country would be able to do without question.”

John Jones, Realtor

“It’s easy to sit behind a desk and write up some regulations that someone thinks this would be good, but this is slowly destroying our neighborhood. It destroys our economic base and it takes away from our heritage.”

Tee McCovey, United Way

“You can drive around Pascagoula and see what the effect of this 50% rule is doing to certain communities here in Pascagoula. Communities that were once thriving and people took care of their yard, people took care of their home and now you can see this deterioration of certain areas in Pascagoula based on this federal regulation.”

Michele Coats, County Planner

“I’ve heard people say, ‘We don’t want to subsidize building in the flood plain’. We’re not talking about subsidizing building in the flood plain. We’re talking about hard working families that want to be able to maintain their homes and their history here in Pascagoula.”

Greg Cronin, Charter Bank

“That is the great American dream is to own your own home. I don’t think homeowners want the government telling them what they can and can’t do.”

Gov. Haley Barbour

“Those people want to work close to the yard, if they can, to work close to the refinery, but it’s driven the cost of housing within this very large percentage of the town so high that it’s cheaper to move to Mobile; it’s cheaper to move to the next county to the north, because they are not burdened by this unreasonable and unnecessary rule that drives costs up so high.”

Christian Hartley, Bancorp South

“The policies that are in place are driving people away from the place that you call home.”

Paige Roberts, Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

“We are essentially being held hostage and chained to a rule on a piece of paper that is completely affecting our lives and diminishing the quality of life here to the point that over time there just won’t be any real livable neighborhoods here.”

Chris Monforton, Habitat for Humanity

“To my knowledge and in our experience, we haven’t seen a community be so adversely affected or see the flood maps encompass or encircle so many residential properties. I don’t want to use this term loosely, but it is strangling the opportunity for hardworking families to come back or continue to live in Pascagoula.”

Lazaro Rivero, Realtor

“We all know that in any city in America, if you don’t have primary home buyers, you don’t have people living there as their primary home. The love and the pride of ownership is not there. And we need that pride of ownership back in Pascagoula, and the only way we can do it is to let us fix our home and let us push the city forward.”

Patrick Gatchell, City Councilman

“It’s just very difficult because of the 50% rule to find a place to live, to find that right spot. They’re beautiful homes, old homes, with character that you just can’t renovate. There’s just no way to do it.”