



TEXAS WINDSTORM  
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

# TWIA Board Meeting

## Public Comments

August 31, 2022



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSURANCE COUNSEL

Melissa R. Hamilton, Public Counsel

August 25, 2022

*Via Electronic Mail*

Texas Windstorm Insurance Association  
5700 South MoPac Expressway  
Building A  
Austin, Texas 78749

Dear Chair Franklin Womack and Board Members of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA):

The Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC) represents the interests of Texas insurance consumers. Insurance Code Sections 501.002, 501.151, and 501.153.

OPIC appreciates the efforts of Governor Abbott, TWIA, and the Texas Department of Insurance to protect consumers and minimize the impact of the Weston insolvency by making it easier for Weston policyholders to obtain new coverage. OPIC urges the TWIA Board of Directors to ensure the success of those efforts and to minimize the chances of Weston policyholders missing the new enrollment deadline by:

- (1) Communicating as much and as frequently as possible with affected Weston policyholders;
- (2) Exercising any discretion available to TWIA to resolve determinations of eligibility for TWIA coverage favorably for Weston policyholders; and
- (3) Encouraging affected Weston policyholders to not delay in their application for a new wind and hail insurance policy and apply as soon as possible before the November 6, 2022, deadline.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa R. Hamilton  
Public Counsel



**Independent  
Insurance  
Agents of Texas**

August 29, 2022

Texas Windstorm Insurance Association  
5700 South MoPac Expressway  
Building A  
Austin, Texas 78749

**VIA Electronic Mail**

The Independent Insurance Agents of Texas (IIAT) would like to comment on the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association Emergency rules that were issued by the Texas Department of Insurance and announced by Governor Greg Abbott on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

IIAT appreciates the actions of the TDI in issuing the emergency orders which will enable agents to better serve their affected customers. The leeway provided for zero down payment for the first three months of coverage will allow some much-needed time to receive unearned premiums from the Texas Guarantee fund. Another positive provided by the emergency order is the waiver of the moratorium of placing coverage if a named storm has entered the Gulf of Mexico.

One question that arises is if the customer submits the application, does that guarantee coverage will be bound? Under normal circumstances TWIA has many requirements of declinations, purchasing of other insurance requirements, WPI-8 certifications, etc. before coverage is bound. If additional information is needed on an application, how can the agent and insured be assured that coverage will be in effect?

Secondly, it appears that the requirement of an application and payment is in conflict with the zero-payment provision stated in the first bullet point of the press release. The order requires application and payment; however, the press release states that there is a 90-day grace period on payment. We want to correctly advise our agents how to properly submit application and payment, if any is needed.

Again, we want to thank TDI and TWIA on their efforts to assure our coastal policyholders are able to replace the coverage that they need.

Regards,

*H. Lee Loftis*

Chief Legislative Officer

512.493.2418 (direct)

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[lloftis@iiat.org](mailto:lloftis@iiat.org)

## Public Comment

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:09 PM  
**To:** PublicComment  
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## Public Comment

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**From:** Craig Slater <craig@slateragency.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2022 6:01 PM  
**To:** PublicComment  
**Subject:** Public Comment August 31, 2022 meeting

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TWIA Board,

Thank you for addressing the needs of coastal community homeowner's and businesses impacted by Weston Insurance departure from the Texas Windstorm Market.

I am a Weston policy holder for my home and my office, I am impacted by their departure. Although I am writing as an insurance agent that is assisting our policy holders with obtaining replacement coverage with TWIA. I have read the industry briefs and the Governors statement regarding obtaining coverage past the September 7, 2022 Weston departure date. That is nice but I feel our goal is and should be to get the policies replaced before the deadline. Our agency has been working late and weekends with this goal in mind.

The biggest challenge we have is with our clients that have an escrow account and are mortgagee pay. Currently a TWIA policy cannot go into effect until payment is received! We have been processing and submitting requests for payment to lenders and providing the overnight address with the request to expedite the payment. We are continuously monitoring if and when payment is received so we can request early cancellation of the Weston policy.

The one change that could have the most significant impact for mortgagee pay clients is to allow us to effect coverage on the date submitted, then allow the mortgage company time to process and make the payment from the clients escrow account. Allow TWIA to honor the date we submitted the policy versus the date payment is received.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Craig Slater  
Slater Insurance Agency  
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Pearland, TX 77581

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