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\*\*\***POSTPONED**\*\*\*

## Hearing Postponed on BOEMRE/Coast Guard Spill Report

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – House Natural Resource Committee Chairman Doc Hastings announced that tomorrow’s Full Committee oversight hearing on the final report of the BOEMRE/U.S. Coast Guard Joint Investigation Team (JIT) will be postponed until October 6, 2011 due to the Obama Administration’s last-minute refusal to allow investigation team members to testify.

*“It took far too long for the final report to be issued and the Obama Administration is now further delaying proper oversight by suddenly refusing to allow members of the investigation team to testify. Based on numerous conversations between Committee staff and the Administration, it was confirmed that investigators from the BOEM and Coast Guard team would be testifying at Friday’s hearing. We were informed today, one day prior to the hearing, that this had changed. It’s unacceptable for the Committee not to be able to hear from the actual investigators who conducted the investigation and wrote the report.*”

*“It’s always been my intention to first hear from the investigators about their findings, in order to get all the facts, and then hear from the specific companies that are cited in the report. The companies have been notified of this fact. The Administration’s actions are complicating and compromising the Committee’s ability to move forward on this matter.*”

*“Be assured, that both JIT investigators and the companies cited in the report will testify before the Committee. The Interior Department and the Coast Guard have been notified that I expect the two chairmen of the investigative team who wrote the report to be available to appear before the Committee on October 6<sup>th</sup>.”*

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