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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPUBLICANS

CONGRESSMAN DOC HASTINGS, RANKING MEMBER

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## **Administration's Announcement on Drilling Moratorium Creates More Questions than Answers**

*"Will the Obama Administration actually allow drilling work to resume or is this just pre-election rhetoric?"*

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Doc Hastings (WA-04) released the following statement after Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced an end to the deepwater drilling moratorium in the Outer Continental Shelf:

*"Today's announcement isn't time for applause, it's time to demand real, straight answers from this Administration – especially when thousands of American jobs and our nation's energy security are still in limbo.*

*"This Administration has taken a shoot-from-the-hip approach to the moratorium on offshore drilling. Their first moratorium was struck down by federal courts for not being based on science. Then they imposed a de facto ban on shallow-water drilling by issuing new permits at a snail's pace. This is why today's announcement is so difficult to fully trust.*

*"They claim their arbitrary, job-killing deepwater ban is being lifted, yet promise only to look at applications to resume drilling and vaguely threaten unknown new regulations in the future.*

*"The question remains, will the Obama Administration actually allow drilling work to resume or is this just pre-election rhetoric? Will the Administration follow through on this announcement, set clear policies, and allow people to return to work?"*

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