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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2011

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JEFFREY DUNCAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you are aware, the Committee is conducting an investigation into whether senior officials of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), in an effort to help justify their decision to impose a 6-month moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, misrepresented that the moratorium was reviewed and supported by a group of scientists and industry experts. The Committee has requested documents and information from both DOI and DOI's Office of the Inspector General.

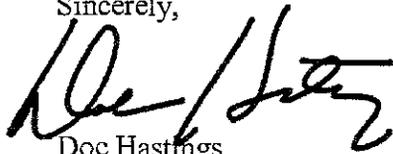
On August 17, 2011, DOI's Office of the Inspector General produced a number of documents to the Committee, but withheld thirteen documents, including seven documents which are email communications between senior DOI officials and the White House based on instructions received from DOI's Office of the Solicitor. On August 19, 2011, Committee staff met with DOI staff to review attachments 13 and 15 the DOI's Office of Inspector General's Report of Investigation on the Federal Moratorium on Deepwater Drilling (Report of Investigation). This meeting was part of an ongoing process that Committee staff has been engaged in with DOI staff to obtain responsive documents from DOI. During this meeting, Committee staff requested copies of the seven emails that were withheld by DOI's Office of the Inspector General. DOI staff indicated that they had recently learned of the emails and had not yet completed a review of the emails. Because it has been several weeks since this meeting, the Committee is confident that DOI has had sufficient time to review these seven emails, and requests that the seven emails now be provided to the Committee no later than October 5, 2011. These emails clearly fall within the Committee's original request to DOI for documents and information relating to the Report of Investigation made in April and reiterated in July.

Additionally, at the August 19th meeting, DOI staff informed Committee staff that they had conducted a search for any email communications between DOI and the engineers after the Report "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf"

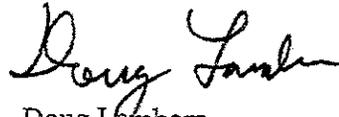
was made public and that no emails had been located. Committee staff had requested these emails be produced during a meeting with DOI staff held on August 2nd. DOI staff, however, limited the search to Steve Black's email account. At the August 19th meeting, Committee staff requested that the search be expanded to include a search of Neil Kemkar's archived email account. The Committee requests that copies any email communications between Mr. Kemkar and the engineers following the release of the report referenced above also be produced to the Committee no later than October 5, 2011.

We look forward to DOI producing these documents and fulfilling its obligation to respond to Committee's requests.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee



Doug Lamborn
Subcommittee Chairman
Energy and Mineral Resources