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## Hastings Statement on Administration's Proposal to Divide MMS

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Doc Hastings (WA-04) released the following statement regarding Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's proposal to divide the Minerals Management Service (MMS) into two separate agencies:

*"The Secretary's proposal merits consideration. My first reaction is that such a division of duties would have benefits if it can be done right. A thoughtful look needs to be taken at how to make certain that American-made energy production can be the safest in the world. Our economy, millions of jobs and our national security depend on the right answers.*

*"The primary focus right now must be on stopping the flow of oil, containing and cleaning up what's spilled, and assisting affected communities. A thorough investigation of all questions about how this happened and whether all steps were taken to properly respond must and will be conducted. Whether it's dividing MMS or other proposals, it's important to really know what went wrong and what needs to be fixed so that informed, effective steps can be taken to protect the environment, taxpayers and American jobs."*

The House Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the Department of Interior, MMS and offshore leasing.

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