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

April 29, 2010

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The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee, which has primary jurisdiction, in the House, over matters pertaining to the exploration of oil and natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf as well as matters relating to the health of our oceans, coasts, fish and wildlife, we are dispatching staff of the Committee to monitor the work of the federal agencies participating in the Deepwater Horizon Response unified command.

We are sending Committee staff to observe the joint unified command as they problem-solve in real time to ensure protection of our economically critical coastlines and ocean resources. Together, Committee staff and the joint unified command staff will enable us to better inform both the Executive and Legislative branch of the current status and potential future needs of our agencies and the impacted communities.

Your assistance and support in this exercise will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources



DOC HASTINGS
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable Ken Salazar

April 29, 2010

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**cc: Secretary of Homeland Security
Secretary of Commerce
Coast Guard Commandant
Deepwater Horizon Response unified command
BP
TransOcean**