

DOC HASTINGS, WA
CHAIRMAN
DON YOUNG, AK
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TN
LOUIE GOHMERT, TX
ROB BISHOP, UT
DOLG LAMBORN, CO
ROBERT J. WITTMAN, VA
PAUL C. BROUN, GA
JOHN FLEMING, LA
MIKE COFFMAN, CO
TOM MCCLINTOCK, CA
GLENN THOMPSON, PA
JEFF DENHAM, CA
DAN BENISHEK, MI
DAVID RIVERA, FL
JEFF DUNCAN, SC
SCOTT R. TIPTON, CO
PAUL A. GOSAR, AZ
RAÚL R. LABRADOR, ID
KRISTI L. NOEM, SD
STEVE SOUTHERLAND II, FL
BILL FLORES, TX
ANDY HARRIS, MD
JEFFREY M. LANDRY, LA
CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN, TN
JON RUNYAN, NJ
BILL JOHNSON, OH

TODD YOUNG
CHIEF OF STAFF

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

October 13, 2011

EDWARD J. MARKEY, MA
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
DALE E. KILDEE, MI
PETER A. DeFAZIO, OR
ENI F.H. FALCOMAVAEGA, AS
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NJ
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, CA
RUSH D. HOLT, NJ
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, AZ
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GU
JIM COSTA, CA
DAN BOREN, OK
GREGORIO KILU CAMACHO SABLAN, CNMI
MARTIN HEINRICH, NM
BEN RAY LUJÁN, NM
JOHN P. SARBANES, MD
BETTY SUTTON, OH
NIKI TSONGAS, MA
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PR
JOHN GARAMENDI, CA
COLLEEN W. HANABUSA, HI

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:

On September 28, 2011, the Committee once again wrote you to request that the Department of the Interior (DOI) provide documents and information relating to the Committee's investigation into whether senior officials of 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. Specifically, the Committee requested copies of the seven emails that were withheld by DOI's Office of the Inspector General per instructions from DOI's Office of the Solicitor, and any email communications between Mr. Kemkar and the engineers following the release of report "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf" by October 5, 2011. The Committee did not receive a response from DOI.

As you are aware, the Committee began its investigation in July 2010 and the Committee's first request for documents and information to DOI was made in April 2011. Although some documents have been made available for review by Committee staff, taken as a whole, DOI's response can best be characterized as an exercise in deliberate delay and noncompliance. Couched with claims of limited resources and privilege concerns, DOI continually professes the desire to be responsive to the Committee's requests, but has only allowed a limited review of several documents or provided publically available documents and often does not provide any written response until after the deadline imposed by the Committee has passed. We are frustrated by these tactics and pattern of delay and the non-response to official Congressional oversight of DOI. Over six months have passed, and on numerous occasions, the Committee has requested DOI produce the requested documents and information, and the Committee continues to wait for DOI to fully comply with all the requests.

Consequently, this letter serves as a final request for complete compliance with the requests for documents and information under the terms contained in the Committee's letters dated information and documents by letters of April 25, 2011; July 18, 2011; August 15, 2011; and September 28, 2011. DOI's response is due no later than October 17, 2011. If DOI fails to once again meet the Committee's deadline, we will consider exercising the Committee's authority to compel compliance with the requests through the issuance of subpoenas.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee



Doug Lamborn
Subcommittee Chairman
Energy and Mineral Resources