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The Honorable Bob Graham
Co-Chair
BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and
Offshore Drilling Commission
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

The Honorable William K. Reilly
Co-Chair
BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and
Offshore Drilling Commission
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Commissioners:

President Obama has fully appointed the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling Commission and I urge you to begin your work without delay. I request an immediate meeting with the Commission to discuss the Gulf Coast drilling moratorium and its impact on Louisiana's economy.

It is vital we work together to ensure the jobs of thousands of Louisiana workers are not destroyed by the current drilling ban. While the Commission is tasked with fully investigating all aspects of the Deepwater Horizon incident, its immediate task should be to develop a set of safety recommendations that will allow the drilling ban to be lifted immediately - not in months. The Commission should prioritize its work and expedite those recommendations before its broader report is issued in 6 months.

At risk are thousands of Louisiana jobs - many of which will never return if the ban remains in place. Small and large energy companies, banks, energy service companies, drilling operators and hundreds of citizens who know the importance of the industry to Louisiana and the nation's energy security have expressed their concerns to me. Gulf Coast residents are growing impatient with the slow federal response to the oil spill and want to get back to work now. We must move forward and work together to ensure responsible American energy production in the Gulf of Mexico continues. I urge the Commission to move swiftly to establish safety recommendations and direct the President to lift the drilling ban and work with Louisianians to ensure this vital sector of the economy is not further devastated.

Sincerely,

Charles Boustany Jr., MD
Member of Congress

CC: President Obama