



National Commission on the
BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

Commissioners

Bob Graham, Co-Chair
William K. Reilly, Co-Chair
Frances Beinecke
Donald F. Boesch
Terry D. Garcia
Cherry A. Murray
Fran Ulmer

October 8, 2010

The Honorable Charles Boustany Jr.
U. S. House of Representatives
1117 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Richard Lazarus
Executive Director

Dear Congressman Boustany:

Commission Co-Chairs Senator Bob Graham and William K. Reilly have asked me to respond to your letter of June 15.

First of all, please accept our apologies for the delay in responding. We only became aware of this letter after I met with a member of your staff in September. Apparently, because the letter was addressed to the White House rather than the Commission, it was not referred directly to our offices.

As you are no doubt aware, the Commissioners held hearings in New Orleans in July and heard from many Gulf residents concerning the severe economic impacts caused by the moratorium on deepwater drilling. As a consequence, although the imposition of the moratorium was not a part of the Commission's charge, Commission Executive Director Richard Lazarus wrote letters to both the Department of the Interior and the Bipartisan Policy Center, raising a series of questions concerning the scope and impact of the moratorium, as well as how and when it might be lifted. For your information, I have enclosed each letter and the responses we received. The Co-Chairs continue to discuss the status of the moratorium and progress toward its termination with Interior Secretary Salazar.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Claudia A. McMurray
Senior Counsel for Congressional and
State Relations

Enclosures