

**Center for Biological Diversity • Clean Ocean Action • Clean Water
Action • Conservation Law Foundation • Defenders of Wildlife •
Earthjustice • Environment America • Greenpeace • League of
Conservation Voters • National Audubon Society • Ocean Conservancy
• Oceana • Sierra Club • The Wilderness Society**

May 20, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The tragic accident, loss of life, and ongoing oil pollution in the Gulf of Mexico from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig vividly demonstrates the need to stop new off shore oil drilling, end our dependence on oil and other fossil fuels, and pass a strong climate bill that fights global warming and promotes clean energy.

In response to the BP drilling disaster, we specifically urge you to establish a presidential drilling moratorium which would permanently restore coastal protections for areas currently not leased for off shore oil and gas drilling, and cancel exploratory drilling permits for the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. Furthermore, we urge you to use the full force of your office to push for a comprehensive bill that cuts oil consumption, curbs global warming pollution and shifts us towards clean energy.

The spill, and the conduct of companies like BP, raises serious concerns about expanding offshore drilling. As the coastal and community impacts of the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling disaster become clear, it is critical that BP goes beyond the significant challenge of cleaning up their mess, and ensures the Gulf's coastal communities are made whole. In addition to stopping new drilling and holding BP accountable, we urge you to direct your administration to initiate a top to bottom review of worker safety, blow-out avoidance technology, and oil spill clean up plans for operations in the Outer Continental Shelf.

We applaud your support for passing a comprehensive climate and energy bill that will reduce our dependence on oil and cut pollution, and for clean energy projects such as off shore wind. Our organizations stand ready to continue to push for a comprehensive climate bill without new off shore drilling.

Our coastlines are vital and beautiful ecosystems that also anchor billion dollar economies and support hundreds of thousands of jobs. We should not put these coastal ecosystems and economies at risk. The best way to protect them is by banning new drilling. Therefore, we strongly urge you to announce a presidential drilling moratorium

for the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, and the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Rodger Schlickeisen
President
Defenders of Wildlife

Andrew Sharpless
Chief Executive Officer
Oceana

Kieran Suckling
Executive Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Margie Alt
Executive Director
Environment America

John Kassel
President
Conservation Law Foundation

Trip Van Noppen
President
Earthjustice

Cindy Zipf
Executive Director
Clean Ocean Action

Phil Radford
Executive Director
Greenpeace

Michael Daulton
Senior Director for Public Policy
National Audubon Society

John DeCock
President
Clean Water Action

Gene Karpinski
Executive Director
League of Conservation Voters

Vikki Spruill
President & CEO
The Ocean Conservancy

William Meadows
President
The Wilderness Society