



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Tuesday's explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico is a tragedy for the families and friends of the missing and injured workers. And I know many Americans join us in offering our prayers for the victims and their loved ones.

While the immediate priority is finding the 11 missing workers and helping the injured, this accident serves as a sobering reminder of some of the real dangers and risks from oil drilling. It raises concerns about the most recent claims of the industry that advances in technology have made drilling safe not only for workers but also the environment.

Following the conclusion of search and rescue and cleanup efforts, I'm requesting you investigate worker safety, inspections, technology and industry practices used in offshore oil and gas production over the past decade. I also intend to request that the Senate Commerce Committee investigate this incident and our nation's current plans for responding to a major offshore oil spill.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".