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Text from Video:

>> With the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico far worse than anyone expected, president Obama is promising an all-out response from the federal government. This crisis comes a few weeks after the president announced the expansion of offshore drilling to areas now off limits. Senator bill nelson now wants those plans shelved. He wrote a letter to the president to that effect. Senator joins us from Pensacola. David Axelrod reiterated the white house policy that there will not be any new drilling for the foreseeable future anyways. The executive order was announced not long ago. It will take time to ramp things up. What is it specifically you are asking the white house to do?

Bill Nelson>> stop the five-year plan on drilling on the offshore continental united states until we get to the bottom of this. You know, the president wants to pass a climate change bill later on. A lot of the senators, especially Lindsey graham, wanted that to include offshore drilling. I think that's dead on arrival now.

>> Now, your senate colleague, Mary Landrieu, who admits, she is a supporter of the oil industry, says, let's not rush here. There is a lot at stake. This is an isolated incident. Let's not do anything rash here. What do you say to her this morning?

Bill Nelson >> well, that's why we need the investigation. Why didn't those hydraulics work when the blow occurred? Is there something wrong with the cement that was ceiling the hole around the pipe? What about these remote operated vehicles that is down there now trying to mechanically crank those valves shut. They have tried and tried and it hasn't worked. Obviously, we have got a serious safety problem.

>> Things have changed so much, senator, over the last few days, from what we initially heard following the sinking of that drilling rig. We had initially heard from the coast guard. Doesn't look like there is any oil leaking from the wellhead. things seem to be pretty good. Was that premature?

Bill Nelson >> it may be but I don't know how to assess blame. I know that the folks are panicked down here. This thing is going to start moving east toward Florida. We have our pristine beaches. We have all of this tourism. We have the delicate bays and estuaries. So it is important that we get to the bottom of this. this is why I have tried to keep drilling off of Florida, keep it at least 125 miles off of Florida so that our economic and environmental and the military interest. This is the largest testing and training yard for the United States military in the world. You just simply can't have oil rigs where you're testing your most sophisticated weapons.

>> Certainly, there is a lot at stake in that area. let me come back to something that Suzanne Malveaux told us from the white house a few minutes ago, that is, the white house, the administration is pushing back very hard against criticism that it didn't mount a vigorous enough response in the early going of this. What do you think about that?

Bill Nelson >> No, I think they did. I have talked to ken Salazar, admiral muelleins several times. I have talked to the white house. They were on top of this. What can the military do? The coast guard takes the lead. what can the coast guard do, except put out the booms, try to control burn, try to scoop up the 230,000 gals they have already scooped up. You have got to rely on the oil company to get down there and work those mechanical valves and everybody is at the mercy of them.

>> is too much faith being put in the oil company to look after the drilling rig, to make sure that everything is in accordance with safety standards to, fully disclose what's going on beneath the surface of the sea? The initial estimate was that it was 1,000 barrels of oil that was leaking every day. The government went down there and took a look and says, oh, no, it is five times worse. Is there too much trust being put in these oil companies?

Bill Nelson >> well, very possibly. That's why you've got to have safety backup systems and they've got to work. that's the role of the government now containing this spill but then getting to the bottom of this and why did we have this failure and don't let it happen again.

>> Senator bill nelson from Florida, Pensacola.