

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
June 10, 2010

Mr. Lamar McKay
President, BP America
501 West Lake Park Blvd.
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Mr. McKay:

This is to share with you our support for a proposal by the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) for \$100 million in research funding to maintain an independent, real-time monitoring capability of the progression of the oil spill. This documentation of the evolving conditions is necessary in order to deal with the environmental threats from the oil spill to the Gulf of Mexico's seabed, water column, surface, and shoreline. The proposal also provides for the development of technologies that improve the ability to detect and remediate oil spills in the Gulf, before they cause irreparable harm.

The coasts along Florida host our tourist destinations, fishing industry, and many sensitive natural areas. Collectively they generate billions of dollars for Florida's economy. Importantly, they are home to some of the most sensitive and precious ecosystems in the world. The destructive spill is already having an impact on our Gulf of Mexico coastal areas, and the threat to our State is real and imminent. If we are to adequately protect Florida's economy and environment, we must act in a swift and organized manner to monitor, evaluate, and respond to the constantly changing conditions.


You recently announced a pledge of \$500 million to facilitate an independent research and evaluation of the effects of the oil spillage. The FIO Response Proposal will be the first step for the state of Florida in accomplishing the goals of the research program that you have set forth. Although we understand your desire to appoint an independent advisory group to evaluate research proposals, we would urge you to not wait until August to start awarding funds. These funds are needed immediately to support independent research, such as FIO's plan to expand the Gulf oil spill monitoring and mitigation process. As a partnership of 21 universities and marine science organizations, FIO is already providing real-time monitoring of the effects of the spill and these funds would ensure the continuation and much needed expansion of their efforts.

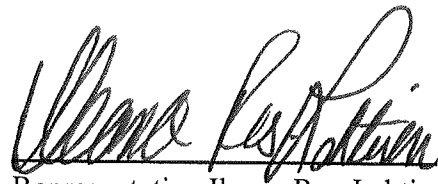
Florida's interests are urgent and unique. Our state represents a substantial portion of the marine recreational fishing in America. Our wide Gulf shelf supports a multi-billion dollar fishing industry and the Florida Keys are a national marine sanctuary. The potential impact of the spill on our economy, habitat, and coastal communities demands that our state have a leadership role

in the response. With the team led by FIO, we have the best possible team assembled to take on this task.

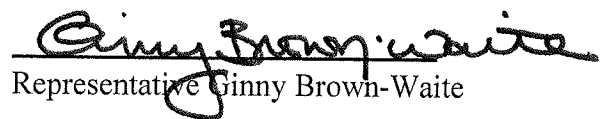
Time is the essence if we are to establish a baseline of the current state of the Gulf before the oil spill impacts a wider swath of the area and it is our hope that you will review and respond to the FIO request for the \$100 million research proposal. The FIO team has advised that they can begin deployment of the monitoring system immediately. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.


Sincerely,

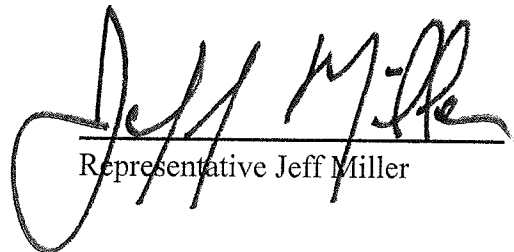

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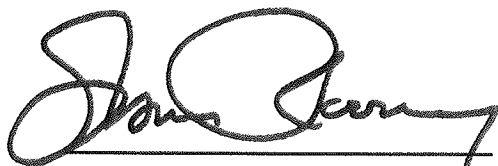

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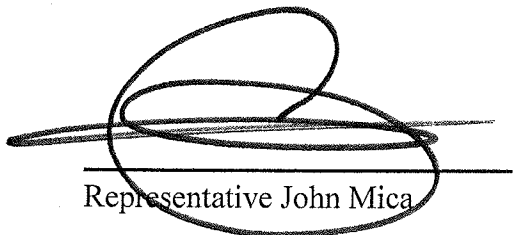
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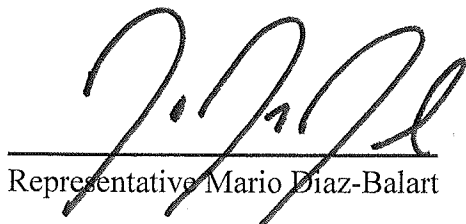
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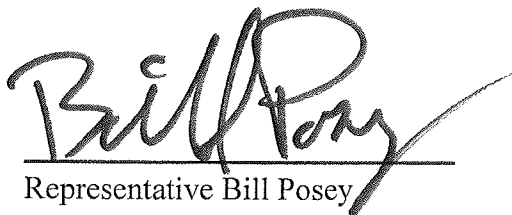
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