

ALLEN BOYD

SECOND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEFENSE

FINANCIAL SERVICES  
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE:

BUDGET

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Washington, DC 20515

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July 15, 2010

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

Dear Mr. McKay:

During the many meetings I have attended in the second Congressional district in Florida regarding the BP Deep Horizon oil spill disaster, I have heard from my constituents and local businesses about the devastating impact the BP Deep Horizon oil disaster has had on the local economy. Tourists from all across America normally flock to the Panhandle during the summer months not only for the breathtaking beaches, but also for our Southern hospitality and quality service. This summer is different though, and through no fault of their own, my constituents' restaurants, hotels, charter boat tours, and small businesses are in dire straights. Their very livelihood has been threatened by the oil spill, and as such, BP has a moral and ethical responsibility to respond.

Although BP has previously allocated funding to the state for tourism advertising, these dollars somehow bypassed North Florida communities that rely on the summer tourism season to provide for their families. Therefore I am writing to request that BP create an advisory council specifically to oversee the coordination and distribution of all BP funds designed to promote tourism. The advisory council should be comprised of local government officials, county administrators, and business leaders, all of whom have a long and successful history of attracting tourists to our coast. Their expertise should be recognized and utilized now. This advisory council will ensure that tourism funding reaches the areas most in need and most affected by the oil spill.

Tourism is the life blood of many of the communities that I represent, and this life blood has been severely threatened by the oil spill. Many of our beaches are still clean and safe to visit, and we must make every effort to ensure that Americans know that North Florida is open for businesses.

I request your fullest attention to this issue and look forward to receiving your response. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me if I can assist in setting up this council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen Boyd  
Member of Congress

Cc: Doug Suttles  
Ray Dempsey