

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

June 14, 2010

Via Facsimile (334-353-1054)

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Riley,

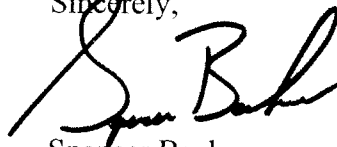
With great interest, I noted the comments that you made on national television yesterday regarding the lack of coordination with state governments being demonstrated by the Obama Administration in the aftermath of the Gulf oil spill. It is critical that all necessary resources be summoned to contain this threat to our state's environment and economy.

This is a matter of great concern for me as well. On May 27, I wrote a letter to the President expressing my dismay over the failure of federal agencies to give timely approval to emergency response measures deemed appropriate by governors in the Gulf Coast states. A copy of that letter is attached. States have been waiting for weeks for approval from an alphabet soup of federal agencies on cleanup activities. With oil now showing up along the shoreline, time is no longer on our side. It is perhaps symptomatic of the overall lack of communication that I have not even yet received the courtesy of an acknowledgment from the White House.

The issue of economic compensation must be squarely addressed in view of the harm being done to our fishing and tourism industries. In a satellite interview broadcast on Channel 4 News/ITN in Great Britain on Friday, I directly recommended to BP that it employ more of our state's fishing vessels in the cleanup. Those who have been idled by this disaster should receive the first opportunity at these new jobs. As I have also said, the state deserves reimbursement from BP for any unemployment claims related to the spill.

You have my assurance that I and the members of our state's congressional delegation will continue to insist that all parties come together to address this massive environmental tragedy.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

STB/tj