GEORGE MILLER, CALIFORNIA, Chairman

DALE E. KILDEE, MICHIGAN, Vice Chairman DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA RUBEN HINOJOSA, TEXAS CAROL YN MCCARTHY, NEW YORK JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO DAVID WU, OREGON RUSH D. HOLT, NEW JERSEY SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA RAUL M. GRIJALVA, ARIZONA TIMOTHY H. BISHOP, NEW YORK JOE SETAK, PENNSYLVANIA DAVID LOEBSACK, IOWA MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII JASON ALTMIRE, PENNSYLVANIA PHIL HARE, ILLINOIS YVETTE D. CLARKE, NEW YORK JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE MARCIA FUDGE, OHIO JARED POLIS, COLONADO PAUL TONKO, NEW YORK PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PUERTO RICO GREGORIO KILIL-CAMACHO SABLAN, N. MARIANA ISLANDS DINA TITUS, NEVADA



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

May 27, 2010

JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA, Senior Republican Member

THOMAS E. PETRI, WISCONSIN
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
PETER HOEKSTRA, MICHIGAN
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DELAWARE
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
VERNON J. EHLERS, MICHIGAN
JUDY BIGGERT, ILLINOIS
TODD RUSSELL PILATTE, PENNSYLVANIA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
TOM PRICE, GEORGIA
ROB BISHOP, UTAH
BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA
TOM MCCUITOCK, CALIFORNIA
DUNCAN D. HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Honorable David Michaels Assistant Secretary OSHA U.S. Department of Labor 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Michaels:

I write to express concern about increasing reports that workers engaged in oil spill cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico, including while spraying chemical dispersants, have become ill. I have requested an immediate staff-level briefing on OSHA's efforts to protect workers involved in the cleanup effort.

I am aware that OSHA has issued guidelines for protecting workers engaged in oil spill cleanup. I am also aware that OSHA is attempting to track down workers who are reporting illnesses and is conducting its own air monitoring.

In addition to these reported short-term health effects, it appears that much is still unknown about the long-term health effects of chemicals utilized in this cleanup. Especially given the health and safety track record of one of the key corporations involved in this disaster, heightened vigilance is necessary to ensure that every person aiding the cleanup is provided the necessary information, training, and equipment to protect themselves and those in their charge.

Please keep me and my staff informed on an ongoing basis of OSHA's efforts to protect the health and safety of workers in the Gulf area, any challenges or obstacles to rigorous OSHA monitoring and enforcement during the cleanup, and how my Committee may be of assistance in ensuring OSHA has the resources and authority necessary to do its critical job and do it well. I request that you make every effort to ensure there are sufficient OSHA personnel in the affected areas to properly and aggressively protect the health and safety of those involved in the oil cleanup activities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER

Chairman