

CHARLIE MELANCON  
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE

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June 16, 2010

Mr. Tony Hayward  
Chief Executive Officer  
BP  
200 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Mr. Hayward:

There have been numerous accounts stating BP has promised to pay for all legitimate claims relating to the damage caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster. Although I am pleased that your company has recognized responsibility for this tragedy, I am disappointed to hear from many of my constituents that they feel BP set up a complicated process to make claims or refused to pay the full amount owed. Today's announcement that your company has agreed to establish a \$20 billion fund to pay claims and that Mr. Kenneth Feinberg will oversee this fund are steps in the right direction. But the claims process needs to be streamlined to ensure that those that have been harmed by your company's actions do not suffer further.

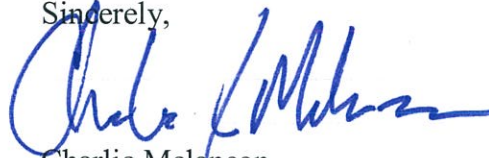
I am also pleased to hear that BP is donating \$100 million to a foundation to support unemployed oil rig workers who have had their jobs terminated, but that is merely a drop in the bucket of what is needed to make these workers whole. The six month moratorium on deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, imposed by the federal government, is a direct result of the explosion that claimed 11 lives and BP's inability to stop the on-going oil leak.

I oppose the moratorium, and I am urging the repeal of this order due to the extreme economic consequences it will have for Louisiana and the nation. Unfortunately, the jobs of workers on deepwater rigs are already being terminated. I am calling on BP to pay the full salary of each worker whose job has been terminated due to the moratorium for as long as the deepwater drilling ban impacts their employment.

I am also calling on BP to contribute any additional funds to the oil rig worker compensation fund necessary to ensure that displaced oil rig and service workers are fully compensated for their lost wages. According to the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association the direct wages lost during this shutdown may be as high as \$330 million per month.

BP has made a promise to take responsibility for the worst man-made disaster in our nation's history. Simply put, covering the full salary of workers who have been terminated because of the drilling ban is a part of keeping that promise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlie Melancon", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Charlie Melancon  
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Kenneth R. Feinberg