

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
<http://science.house.gov>

October 28, 2010

The Honorable John Holdren
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
725 17th St., NW, Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:

On June 24, 2010 I wrote you regarding the Administration's role in delaying the disbursement of funds associated with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI). I appreciate your August 2, 2010 response to my inquiry, particularly relating to the events surrounding the Administration's meeting with BP on June 16, 2010.

However, I would be remiss if I did not point out the fact that you did not provide any documents relating to this meeting, or the GRI as I requested. The Administration's lack of cooperation frustrates Congress' ability to fulfill its oversight responsibilities.

After taking office in 2009, President Obama promised to "creat[e] an unprecedented level of openness in government."¹ Unfortunately, the President's memorandum on transparency seems to have had little effect.² It is my sincere hope that you will assist my inquiry and ensure that the President's promise of transparency is more than rhetoric.

By this letter, I once again request that the Office of Science and Technology Policy provide to the Committee all records, as defined in the attachment, relating to the GRI. Given the time-sensitive nature of the research at hand, I again request that these documents be delivered to room 394 Ford House Office Building as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Tom

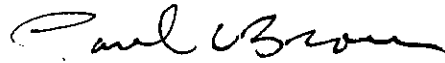
¹ White House Memorandum, Subject: Transparency and Open Government, January 21, 2009

² Larry Freed, Government Transparency Study, ForeSee Results/Nextgov, October 20, 2010

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Hammond, Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee Minority Staff, at (202) 225-6371.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Broun".

Rep. Paul Broun, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Investigations
and Oversight

cc: REP. BRAD MILLER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Investigations & Oversight

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ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.

2. The terms "relating," "relate," or "regarding" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.