Gulf Coast State Attorneys General

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Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General
State of Alabama	State of Louisiana	State of Florida	State of Mississippi	State of Texas

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Dear Messrs. Bondy, Winters & Suttles:

As the Attorneys General for the five Gulf Coast states, we write concerning the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that threatens our coasts and shared natural resources—as well as the livelihood of our coastal citizens and communities.

In the wake of the tragic loss of human life that has already occurred, our top concern now must be the well-being of the precious environmental and wildlife resources of our states. Protecting the fragile coastal ecologies and economies is critical to preserving the ongoing sustainability of our coastal communities. From the fisherman and shrimpers who rely directly upon the Gulf for their income, to the local businesses that are sustained by our fishing communities, and the small businesses that thrive on coastal tourism, this oil spill threatens the health and safety of our coastal communities. In addition, if the oil spill is not fully remediated, it could be an ecological and economic disaster for all of our states.

At a time when local communities are struggling with budget shortfalls, coastal towns and cities cannot afford to fund the necessary mitigation and clean-up efforts. The same is true for each of our states. Yet without the necessary financial resources it will be impossible to both protect and restore the Gulf. As a result, we are focused on working—hopefully cooperatively—with BP and others to ensure that our state and local governments, as well as our citizens and communities, have access to the financial resources necessary to prevent further environmental degradation, mitigate future ecological damage, and fully

restore the Gulf to its natural state, as well as to compensate for any economic losses suffered on an individual, corporate, and governmental level.

BP has extensive liability for the consequences of this spill, including but not limited to under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Indeed, Mr. Tony Hayward, your Chief Executive, has publicly accepted responsibility for the oil spill on BP's behalf.

With that in mind, we appreciate the statement that BP issued recently reaffirming its commitment to "pay all necessary and appropriate clean-up costs" and detailing claims procedures for those seeking reimbursement. Further, we understand that yesterday morning BP provided $25 million each to Louisiana, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi to pay for mitigation and remediation efforts. These up-front payments—in addition to the payments that BP has already begun making to reimburse expenses incurred by state and local governments—reflect an important step in the right direction and show that BP has begun to make good on its promise to fully fund the protection and clean-up of our coastline. While we appreciate BP's demonstrated commitment thus far, the Mississippi Canyon #252 site is still releasing oil into the Gulf and clean-up efforts are expected to last for months or longer—so additional resources will undoubtedly be necessary before our coast has been properly remediated.

We must consider all appropriate measures to preserve taxpayer dollars and maximize the financial resources available to fund this massive clean-up and recovery effort. Because current indications suggest that the magnitude of the damage inflicted and losses expected will very likely exceed the total amount of money currently in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, we request that BP memorialize its public statements and provide further assurances going forward as to paying all legitimate claims that stem from this oil spill —which will allow us to advise our states on how best to plan for the future.

Additionally, to help facilitate the flow of accurate and timely information between our offices and BP, we request that you assign an individual to serve as our point of contact on this matter. Doing so will ensure that each of our offices can quickly and effectively communicate with BP about any problems, concerns or questions that arise during the clean-up effort.

Finally, although we appreciate BP's commitment to cooperation thus far, there are multiple outstanding questions about the cause and ultimate effect of the oil spill. Thus, while all of our efforts are concentrated on the environmental impact of this disaster, it is certainly possible that there may be governmental investigations at some point in the future. Accordingly, we would ask that BP and any of your affected employees or affiliated organizations preserve any documents, data compilations (including electronically recorded and stored data), tangible objects or other information relevant to the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, the resulting oil spill or the clean-up effort in the form in which they currently exist until further notice. Regardless of BP's current retention policy, please ensure that the appropriate person within each entity takes all necessary measures to avoid the destruction or modification of any such records.

We look forward to your prompt response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Troy King	James D. "Buddy" Caldwell	Bill McCollum	Jim Hood	Greg Abbott
Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General	Attorney General
State of Alabama	State of Louisiana	State of Florida	State of Mississippi	State of Texas