

"The catastrophic destruction of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform and the growing oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico is a very serious issue and one that I am giving my full attention.

On April 28, I met with Lamar McKay, president and chairman of BP America in my Washington office. I called upon him to expend every effort to stabilize the situation in the Gulf. Mr. McKay was unequivocal in his commitment to use every resource that BP – and the entire oil and gas industry – has to stop the leak and to prioritize both containment and clean-up from this unfortunate accident.

I am also being updated by the federal agencies involved in monitoring and controlling the oil leak, and I have plans to fly out over the site with the Coast Guard as soon as possible, weather permitting.

Naturally, my office is in close communication with our local and state emergency management team, as well as our coastal leaders. While everyone realizes that this spill has the potential of being as devastating to the Gulf Coast as a major hurricane, our hopes and prayers are certainly that it will not be.

As you can imagine, the entire regional economy could be affected, from shrimpers, to oystermen, commercial and recreational fishermen, restaurateurs, hotel and condominium

resort managers, and realtors, to name just a few.

I have encouraged BP to use every option available to contain and control this substantial and, potentially growing, oil leak."