

Bonner Legislation Directs 80 Percent of Gulf Oil Spill-Related Clean Water Act Fines to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas

for Economic Development, Tourism Promotion and Ecosystem Restoration

WASHINGTON – A year after the BP oil spill, each of the five Gulf Coast states directly affected by the environmental disaster still awaits adequate compensation for local economic and environmental recovery efforts. Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, has introduced the Gulf Coast Restoration Act (HR 1762) which directs 80 percent of Gulf oil spill fines paid to the federal government under the Clean Water Act to a newly created Gulf Coast Restoration Fund for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

"The five Gulf Coast states on the front line of the BP oil spill bore significant economic and environmental damage. It is only fair they receive the majority of the Clean Water Act fines associated with the oil spill to offset their burden," Congressman Bonner said.

"Yesterday, I introduced the Gulf Coast Restoration Act to ensure those areas directly affected by the disastrous oil spill receive proper restitution. I was additionally pleased to have thirteen other Gulf Coast lawmakers join my legislation as original cosponsors."

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 currently allocates a portion of Clean Water Act (CWA) fines to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for mitigation of future spills. The remainder of the CWA fines goes to the General Treasury Fund. Clean Water Act fines associated with the Gulf oil spill will be determined as part of the ongoing civil lawsuit the Justice Department has filed against BP.

"My legislation would channel 80 percent of CWA fines paid as a result of the 2010 Gulf oil spill into a new Gulf Coast Restoration Fund for the five Gulf states, while the remaining 20 percent would go back into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to address future spills.

"Each of the five Gulf states was affected differently by last year's oil spill, and each faces

different challenges in their recovery efforts. This legislation ensures Alabama and the other Gulf states have access to funds for economic development, tourism promotion and ecosystem restoration as meets their specific needs."