



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL

Last week I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and Louisiana to meet with policy makers and witness first hand the devastation of the British Petroleum (BP) Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Louisiana legislators invited a dozen women legislators from around the nation to tour the coastal wetlands with the Louisiana Division of Wildlife and National Guard to observe the immense amount of oil that has spilled into the ocean, barrier islands, estuaries, coastline and survey the clean up activities by BP and the Federal Government.

I experienced the stench of the oil saturated waters that have been damaging the ecosystems, fishing industry and engulfing the wetlands since April 20, 2010. These beautiful wetlands, estuaries and barrier islands are home to thousands of birds and provide the necessary protection to the coastal communities from the high tides of hurricanes. These very important barrier islands are now on the verge of destruction because of the oil spill and lack of urgent response from BP and the federal government.

Locally elected officials from the coastal communities all of-the- way up to the state level has been begging for more help and resources from the president. Unfortunately many of their pleas have fallen on deaf ears!

Louisiana is one of the most productive coastlines in the United States, home to 30% of America's oil & gas production and generations of oyster and shrimp fishing families and processing plants. She was in the process of overcoming the massive destruction from hurricane Katrina when hit with the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Since President Obama issued the moratorium on all oil and gas production along the coastline many families of the gulf coast have been hit with a second blow. Now, the men and women of the Louisiana coastline are looking at unprecedented unemployment rates and may be forced to relocate to continue their careers as fishermen, oil & gas workers, hoteliers and restaurateurs.

The people of Louisiana are proud, hard working and in need of assistance now! They need BP and the President to take command of the oil spill and work with their governor, congressional members, legislators, State agencies, wildlife experts and the oil & gas industry to mitigate the damages of the oil spill and cap the leaking oil well. There needs to be many more resources to aid in the clean up of the oil and a repeal of the moratorium of oil and gas drilling in the shallow waters once the rigs have been inspected by *credible* regulators. Unfortunately the families and businesses of the Gulf Coast will be living with the impacts of the oil spill for generations and need our help and support. Please take a moment to offer a donation and prayer for the families and businesses struggling to survive the spill. For additional information on the oil spill visit www.gomarsha.org or email me at Marshalooper@gmail.com.

Marsha Looper

Colorado State Representative (R) HD#19

Website: WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG, 719-238-5600

Email: MarshaLooper@gmail.com



Oil ravaged beaches in Louisiana



Oil pools off the coast of Louisiana



Oil stained waters off the coast of Louisiana



Oil contaminated wetlands off coast of Louisiana



The cry of Louisiana families up and down the coastline



The cries for help from families in Louisiana