



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**BILL McCOLLUM**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

May 20, 2010

John E. (Jack) Lynch Jr.  
Global Exploration and Production  
Global Supply and Trading  
US General Counsel  
BP America, Inc.  
501 WestLake Park Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Mr. Lynch:

In a May 5<sup>th</sup> letter the Gulf Coast State Attorneys General requested that BP and other companies involved in the operation or maintenance of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig memorialize their commitment to fund the protection and clean-up of our shared coastline and provide compensation for any economic losses suffered on an individual, corporate, and governmental level. While I appreciate the frequent, ongoing communications between BP and my office, I am writing today to share an additional concern as we approach the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season.

Due to the devastating oil spill in the Gulf, Florida's fragile ecosystems, as well as its coastal and adjacent properties, face a far more serious threat than ever before. A hurricane or tropical storm in the Gulf will significantly increase the environmental damage, as the storm will capture the oil in its path and deposit it much further inland than would occur under normal tidal conditions. The risk to Florida's wetlands, inland watersheds, and estuaries is real and serious, with likely long-term impacts to Florida's environment and economy. I will receive a briefing from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida tomorrow, but early reports are that this year will be a busy hurricane season for Florida and the other Gulf Coast states.

The uncontrolled flow from BP's Deepwater Horizon well has put Florida at risk and the state and its citizens cannot and should not shoulder any additional liability. In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, the additional damage caused by the oil contamination must be paid for by BP. Floridians already struggle with the rising costs of property insurance and the limited availability of these policies, with Citizens Property Insurance Corporation insuring nearly all of Florida's most at-risk properties. This tragedy could worsen these conditions for residents and place our state budget in greater peril.

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As Attorney General of the state of Florida, it is my responsibility to protect the legal rights of Floridians and to represent the interests of our state. Therefore, I call upon your company to immediately acknowledge its liability for those damages that exceed the damages normally incurred as the result of a hurricane or storm and which would not have occurred but for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. While I sincerely hope that BP will promptly acknowledge its responsibility and agree to compensate the state of Florida and its residents and businesses for any such damages (as it has thus far for other damages), I will, if necessary, use the full power of my office to ensure that BP and any other liable party live up to their responsibilities under the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "M".

Bill McCollum

cc: Tony Hayward  
Rupert Bondy