



## STATE OF FLORIDA

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

June 25, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

With oil mats, sheen and tar balls now coming ashore on Florida beaches, the continued slow response and limited resources being directed to protect our coast from the effects of the Deepwater Horizon blowout is extremely frustrating.

I therefore urge you to engage every available asset to combat this threat to our way of life. Voices from Florida are calling for the federal government to increase and improve its response to the crisis, and I am asking you not to be deaf to our needs. The fact that only 28 skimmers are operating off the coast of Florida is clearly inadequate, considering we now have oil on our shores.

It has been my impression for some time that there are hundreds of additional skimming vessels that could be made available to help in the Gulf. Recently I learned there are resources still untapped right here in the Gulf region. At least one Florida firm has professional skimming vessels ready to assist with clean up operations. Jacksonville, Florida-based Crowley Maritime, which assisted in the Exxon Valdez oil spill, has advised my staff that they have four inactive 400' by 100' foot ocean class skimming platforms in Louisiana which individually can skim an area between 250 to 500 feet wide and 40-50 miles long in a day. These vessels could be deployed within days upon request. And, they say they have many more around the world they are eager to deploy for the cleanup, but no one with the Coast Guard or BP seems interested in engaging their vessels.

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Without endorsing any particular company, I urge you to immediately contact Crowley and all other companies which have skimmers and other critical devices and technologies that may mitigate further damage to Florida's 1,260 miles of beaches and coastline.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Bill McCollum

cc: Admiral Thad Allen  
The Honorable Bill Nelson  
The Honorable George LeMieux  
Secretary Mike Sole  
Director Dave Halstead