



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

November 19, 2010

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

For over six months, the people of the Gulf Coast have been experiencing economic devastation as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The fisheries were closed, folks stopped visiting the beaches, property values plummeted, and business is still suffering.

Yet a recent Bloomberg news account reveals that companies far from the Gulf Coast are receiving a majority of the federal contracts for products and services related to damage assessment and clean-up. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded a substantial number of these contracts.

I would like to request that the Commerce Department provide a full accounting of all contracts for damage assessment and clean-up operations in the Gulf oil-spill region.

In administering the Vessels of Opportunity Program, BP agreed to use local labor. It would seem only appropriate that the federal government would make a similar commitment.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison