

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA  
CHAIRMAN

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS  
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA  
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE  
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS  
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA  
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN  
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK  
GENE GREEN, TEXAS  
DIANA DeGETTE, COLORADO  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA  
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA  
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS  
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS  
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON  
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN  
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS  
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK  
JIM MATHESON, UTAH  
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA  
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA  
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA  
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA  
DORIS O. MATSUI, CALIFORNIA  
DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VIRGIN ISLANDS  
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA  
JOHN SARBANES, MARYLAND  
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
ZACHARY T. SPACE, OHIO  
JERRY McNERNEY, CALIFORNIA  
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO  
BRUCE BRALEY, IOWA  
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

JOE BARTON, TEXAS  
RANKING MEMBER

ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI  
DEPUTY RANKING MEMBER  
RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS  
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN  
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA  
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY  
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS  
JOHN B. SHADEGG, ARIZONA  
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA  
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA  
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
MARY BONO MACK, CALIFORNIA  
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA  
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN  
SUE WILKINS MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA  
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA  
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS  
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE  
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA  
STEVE SCALISE, LOUISIANA  
PARKER GRIFFITH, ALABAMA  
ROBERT E. LATTA, OHIO

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

MAJORITY (202) 225-2927  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2525  
MINORITY (202) 225-3641

[energycommerce.house.gov](http://energycommerce.house.gov)

July 29, 2010

Mr. Lamar McKay  
Chairman and President  
BP America, Inc.  
501 Westlake Park Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77079

Dear Mr. McKay:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment are investigating the April 20, 2010, explosion at the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig. The Committee's investigation and recent media accounts have raised questions about the potential suppression of scientific data and analysis concerning restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. According to some accounts, BP has retained numerous academic experts upon whom it has imposed contractual confidentiality agreements and that those academics who refused to agree to confidentiality were not retained.<sup>1</sup>

The disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is not a private matter. The people of the Gulf and its fragile ecosystem continue to suffer terribly. Mitigating the long term impact of the oil spill will require an open exchange of scientific data and analysis. Any effort to muzzle scientists or shield their findings under doctrines of legal privileges could seriously impede the recovery.

To assist the Committee in investigating these issues, the Committee requests a briefing, by August 6, 2010, on BP's retention of third party consultants, academics, and scientists, in connection with assessing the environmental and health impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, as well as restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

---

<sup>1</sup> *BP buys up Gulf scientists for level defense, roiling academic community*, The Mobile Press-Register (July 16, 2010); *BP accused of 'buying academic silence'*, BBC News (July 22, 2010); *BP tries to limit release of oil spill research*, The Associated Press (July 23, 2010).

Mr. Lamar McKay  
July 29, 2010  
Page 2

In addition, the Committee requests that you provide the Committee with copies of all contracts that BP has executed with any third party consultant, scientist, or academic, from the period April 20, 2010, to the present, relating to assessing the environmental and health impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. Please produce the requested documents to the Committee by August 12, 2010. An attachment to this letter provides additional information on how to respond to the Committee's request.

Please contact Tiffany Benjamin at (202) 226-2424 with the Committee staff to schedule the briefing and if you have any question regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman



Edward J. Markey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy  
and Environment

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy  
and Environment