

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

May 27, 2010

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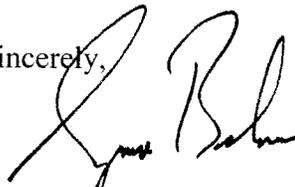
The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President,

As you know, many of us have been disturbed by the refusal of the U.S. Army Corps to provide timely approval of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal's request for an emergency permit to dredge and construct sand barriers along his state's barrier islands. This is a clear infringement on state's rights and a severe impediment to their ability to react quickly to protect their people and natural resources during a time of emergency. States along the Gulf Coast, including my home state of Alabama, need maximum flexibility to respond to the environmental and economic damage being caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. They should not be kept waiting for days and even weeks for decisions to be made by distant federal bureaucrats. Alabama is rightly known for its rapid response to disaster situations. No state should be forced to experience what the citizens of Louisiana have endured, where an elected Governor has been restrained from responding in a timely manner to a disaster that is significantly affecting their environment and economy.

Therefore, I ask your Administration to expedite and not impede emergency actions deemed necessary by the Governors of the Gulf Coast states, which are the first line of defense against the oil washing up on our coastal shorelines.

Sincerely,



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

cc: Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, United States Coast Guard  
Secretary Janet Napolitano, United States Department of Homeland Security  
Secretary Ken Salazar, United States Department of the Interior  
Secretary Stephen Chu, United States Department of Energy  
Mary Katherine Ishee, Acting Director, United States Minerals Management Service