

A Resolution Urging Immediate Action on Off-shore Oil Drilling Regulation, Oversight, Technology, and Legislation

WHEREAS hundreds of millions of gallons of oil have gushed from the ruptured Deepwater Horizon oil rig off the coast of Louisiana to date, endangering the Gulf of Mexico's fragile ecosystem, thousands of coastal businesses and property owners, and the health of residents of along the Gulf coast as well as of clean-up workers; and

WHEREAS multiple attempts to stop the flow have yet to succeed and available technology does not appear to be able to deal with such ruptured offshore oil rigs; and

WHEREAS government and university researchers confirmed on June 8, 2010 that plumes of dispersed oil are spreading below the ocean surface stretching as far as 50 miles from the leaking well, further increasing the threat to marine life; and

WHEREAS a series of decisions made by BP, its employees, and its contractors short circuited safeguards, resulting in the explosion; and

WHEREAS regulators allowed exemptions to the usual permitting process in authorizing the operation of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig; and

WHEREAS the rupture of this well is a wake-up call for our nation and the world to the high risks of offshore oil drilling; and

WHEREAS we believe there is more than enough intelligence, creativity and resourcefulness in this country to invest in solutions to these problems, as well as in alternative energy, thereby significantly reducing the nation's dependence on oil;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Democrats, urge Congress and President Obama to take immediate action on the following:

- Halt the permitting of additional offshore oil rigs, improve enforcement of existing offshore drilling regulations, safety inspections, and oversight, and tighten these regulations to eliminate loopholes and exemptions.
- Invest in research and technology for cleanup of ongoing spills, such as what has occurred with the Deepwater Horizon rig.
- Create a strategic plan for prevention of spills of any size from offshore oil rigs.
- Establish a fund to support current and ongoing costs of research and technology for safeguards, repair and cleanup of oil drilling in the United States and off its shores; all monies in the fund to be supplied by the oil industry and controlled by an independent agency of the federal government; transition for workers and local economies affected by the halt in drilling and permitting shall also be compensated from this fund
- Enact climate change and alternative energy legislation that goes beyond the current Kerry-Lieberman bill, including reducing the use of offshore oil drilling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Washington State congressional delegation and President Obama.