

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

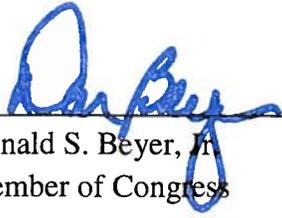
In light of the recently announced settlement between the Justice Department, British Petroleum (BP), and the five states of the Gulf Coast, we write to you with deep concerns about the tax status of BP's proposed financial obligations. The tragedy of the Deepwater Horizon must be answered with justice for the people, economy, and wildlife of the Gulf Coast—not further tax benefits for BP.

We applaud the fact that the proposed consent decree forbids the deduction of \$5.5 billion in fines levied under the Clean Water Act. Nevertheless, we are concerned that without strict language to the contrary, BP will seek to claim the remaining \$15.3 billion as a business expense, displacing the burden of that uncollected revenue onto every other taxpayer while securing a tax windfall worth \$5.35 billion for itself.

The “gross negligence” that led to perhaps the worst environmental disaster in US history should not be an opportunity to game the tax code. Challenging fiscal choices may lie ahead, and every dollar we lose in revenue is a dollar cut from much needed programs, raised from another source, or added to the national debt. As the comment period for the consent decree continues, we ask you to protect both taxpayers and the environment by pursuing a final settlement that clearly specifies no amount of BP's settlement costs may be treated as a tax deduction.

Sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



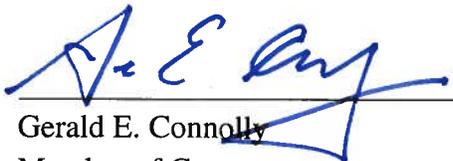
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



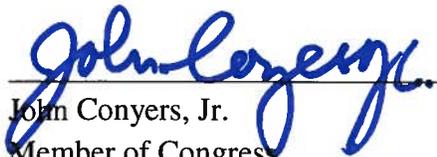
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



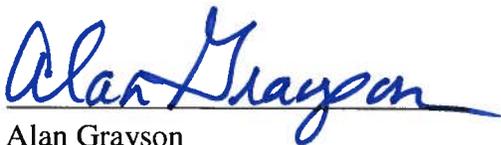
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



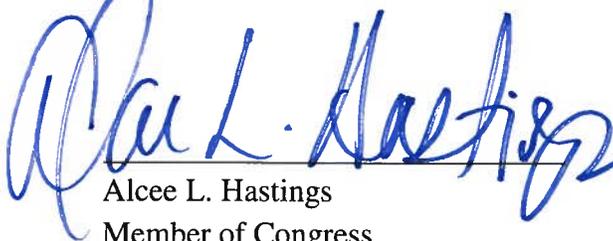
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



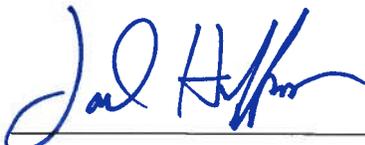
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



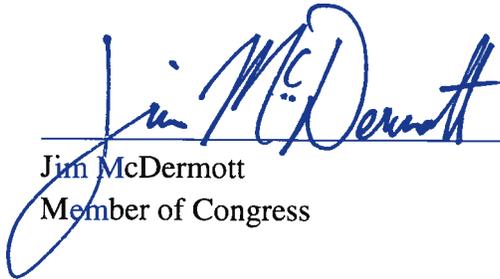
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



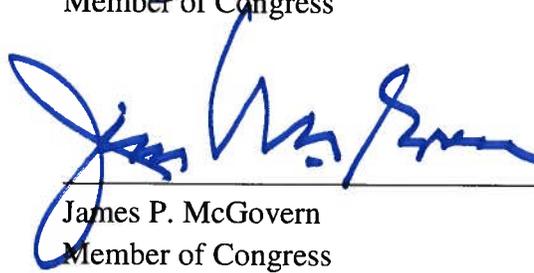
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



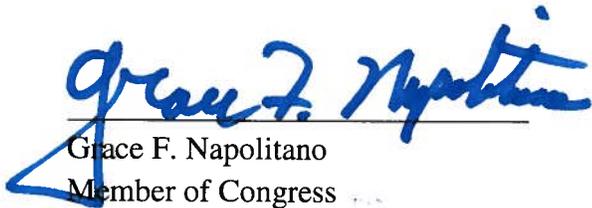
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



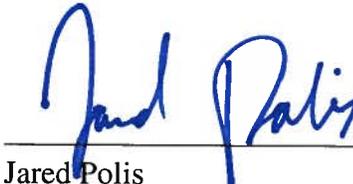
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



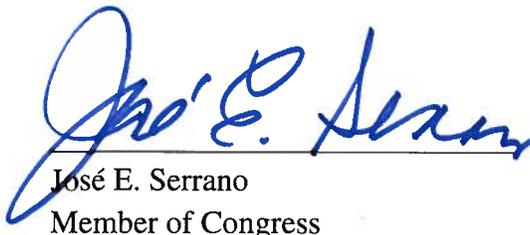
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



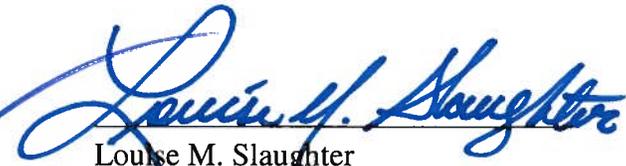
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



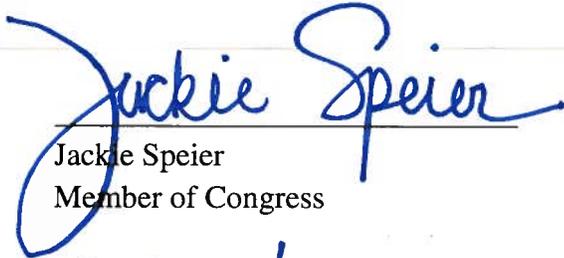
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



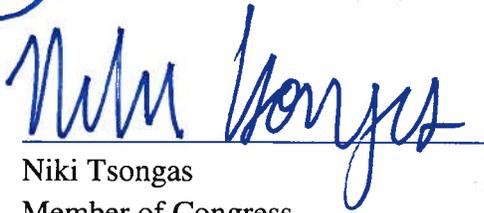
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



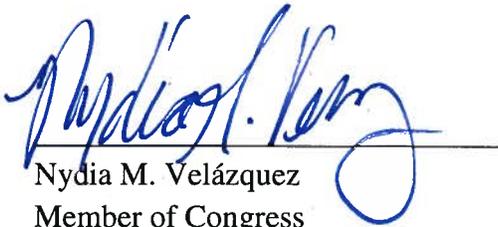
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Robert C. Scott
Member of Congress