

KATHY CASTOR  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States Congressman  
221 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alcee Hastings  
United States Congressman  
2353 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Florida Congressional Delegation Meeting on Gulf Coast Restoration and RESTORE Act Implementation

Dear Co-Chair Buchannan and Co-Chair Hastings:

As we discussed, I respectfully suggest that a meeting of the Florida Congressional Delegation be scheduled to review the significant investments flowing to the State of Florida following the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster of 2010. As you both know well, the great State of Florida suffered serious economic and environmental damage as a result of the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout. Numerous and distinct recovery and restoration funding streams are flowing or will flow to the State, local communities and research institutes. For example, the RESTORE Act that passed the Congress last year could bring multi millions to the Gulf and research institutes. It would benefit our entire Delegation to organize a meeting later this summer on the implementation of the RESTORE Act, Natural Resources Damage Assessment, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other restoration initiatives, and how they will impact Florida.

As we approach several statutory deadlines, it would be prudent to have experts educate our colleagues about the progress that has been made in the Gulf and what is left to be done. Both Florida's and America's economy depend heavily on the health and sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico and it is imperative that our Florida Delegation is well versed in what the RESTORE Act means to our Florida neighbors. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring the Gulf back to full health and we need to ensure our constituents, local businesses and research experts are up-to-date on how to participate in the evolving restoration process.

As we have discussed, you and I have numerous experts and researchers to call upon, so we can organize a productive meeting together.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or my legislative assistant, Javier Gamboa (202) 225-3376. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

Kathy Castor  
U.S. Representative  
Florida- District 14