

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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REGIONAL WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0914

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
205 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3376

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4144 NORTH ARMENIA AVENUE
SUITE 300
TAMPA, FL 33607
(813) 871-2817
www.castor.house.gov

**Support Castor Amendment to Reduce Risk of another Offshore Oil Drilling Economic
and Environmental Disaster**

*Years of work by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement directly benefits Florida
tourism, fishing industries and should not be arbitrarily eliminated*

Dear Colleague:

I urge you to support the **Castor amendment (#143) to reduce the risk of offshore oil disasters and their devastating impact on Florida's economy and environment.** My amendment would maintain the critical existing safety and environmental protections that were developed following the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico - eleven lives were lost and the economic security of so many Floridians and our other Gulf Coast neighbors were affected.

On April 20, 2010, a cascade of multiple failures resulted in the loss of control of the oil well and an explosion that led to the tragic loss of life and also became the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history, crippling the Gulf Coast economy and the fishing, tourism and recreation industries. Over a period of several months, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster saw the well continue to pump 134 million gallons of toxic oil before it could be stopped. This tarred fisheries, wildlife and fragile ecosystems, marred beaches and contributed to the world's perception that all of Florida and other Gulf Coast states were under assault from this toxic substance. While marine scientists have been investigating the impacts, they may not comprehend the full extent of the damage for a long time to come.

Numerous investigative bodies such as the *National Oil Spill Commission* have studied the root causes of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. Based on the findings from the many investigations and reports, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) developed its final "Well Control Rule" which focuses on blowout preventer and well-control requirements. The final rule, developed after unprecedented outreach and consultation with industry and other stakeholders, addresses the full range of systems and equipment related to well control operations, with a focus on **blowout preventer requirements**, well design, well control casing, cementing, real-time monitoring and subsea containment. The measures are

designed to improve equipment reliability, especially for blowout preventers and blowout prevention technologies.

Section 124 of the Interior appropriations bill would prohibit funding to enforce these critical safety and environmental protections. The Castor amendment simply eliminates this harmful provision and would maintain the Department of Interior's critical safety standards developed in large part to prevent offshore oil disasters. The Gulf of Mexico is still reeling from the 2010 disaster. The Gulf Coast and Florida's people and its economy cannot afford to take another hit.

I urge you to **vote YES** on the Castor amendment to reduce the risk of an offshore oil or gas blowout that could result in the loss of life and wreak havoc to our economy. Please contact Javier Gamboa (Javier.Gamboa@mail.house.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor

Member of Congress