

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,

We write to you today to ask that you investigate the recent announcement by Transocean Limited, the owner of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, that it intends to distribute \$1 billion to its share holders at a time when it may be responsible for financial damages related to the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

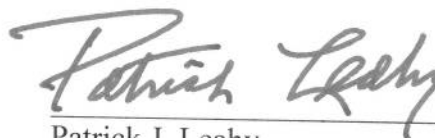
Transocean's previous statements about their liability for this tragedy have been troubling. Last week, during hearings in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Transocean refused to accept any financial responsibility for the oil spill in the Gulf. Now, Transocean has confirmed its intent to pay out \$1 billion in dividends to shareholders, an announcement first reported by the Associated Press after it was made during a closed door meeting in Switzerland. We are concerned that such action to quickly move money out of corporate coffers to individual investors may make it more difficult to pursue liability claims against the company. Families of those who died in the disaster, the fishing industry that has been devastated by the oil spill and the governments that have worked full-time to clean up this spill deserve better. Transocean has also reported that it expects to make a \$270 million profit on its insurance policy for the Deepwater Horizon, since the rig was insured for more than it was worth.

Transocean's stockholders should not take huge profits from polluting our country's Gulf Coast. We urge you to investigate these corporate actions. We appreciate your prompt attention to our request and look forward to working with you in the future to ensure that companies that pollute our nation's resources do not profit from such actions.

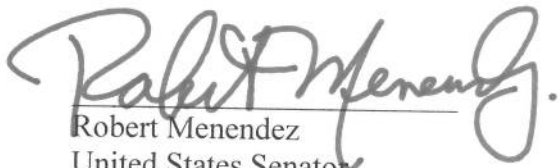
Sincerely,



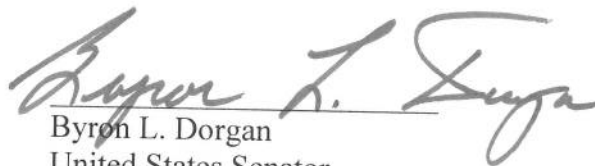
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senator



Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator




Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



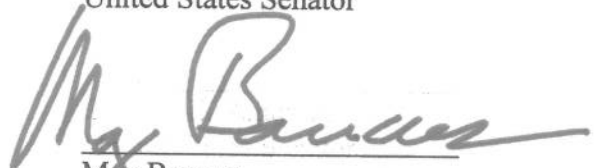
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Mark L. Pryor
United States Senator



Mark Udall
United States Senator




Max Baucus
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark Begich
United States Senator



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