

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

September 23, 2010

Bob Dudley  
Chief Managing Director  
BP Group  
501 West Lake Park Boulevard  
Houston, TX 77070

Dear Mr. Dudley,

I recently read an article regarding the lack of use by deepwater rig workers of BP's \$100 million rig workers fund. In July, I commended your company for creating this fund to support unemployed rig workers experiencing hardship as a result of the moratorium on deepwater drilling. However, I am now concerned about the fund's lack of use and the impending deadline for applications.

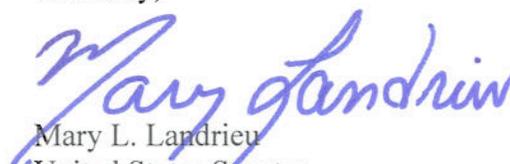
As such, I write today to request that the deadline for applications be extended until the moratorium on deepwater oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico is lifted. According to the administrator of the fund, the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, only 365 applicants have come forward. I believe this is because many companies, to their credit, are keeping their workers on the payroll, despite the uncertainty of knowing exactly when new permits will commence. Yet, with each passing day, their balance sheets take significant hits and it becomes harder for these companies to maintain their employees. As a consequence, the demand for this fund may be on the rise over the next two months or until the moratorium is lifted.

In addition, I ask that you allow the fund to help shallow water workers as well as deepwater workers. As you know, there is currently a de facto moratorium on shallow water drilling with only six new well permits issued under the new regulations. Unless the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEM) begins to issue more shallow water permits at a quicker pace, many of these companies could be faced with the hardship of laying off employees.

I know the September 30, 2010 deadline is quickly approaching for affected rig workers to submit their applications. I do not want to delay the 365 applications that have already been submitted, but I hope you can find a way to extend this deadline to accommodate those rig workers, in deep or shallow water, that might have a need in the near future.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and hope you can accommodate it.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator

MLL: elc