

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION,
AND SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY, *RANKING MEMBER*
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE

ASSISTANT WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

December 2, 2010

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Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.
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1455 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 390
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Dear Mr. Feinberg,

As Administrator of the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF), you recently announced an increase in compensation for shrimpers and crabbers from two to four times 2010 losses. While we applaud this change, we write to request that you take the additional step of extending this policy to these groups on a retroactive basis.

Under the original methodology, individuals and businesses were entitled to two times their losses from the 2010 season. After oystermen were able to show long-term damage to oyster beds, the payment methodology was increased to four times demonstrated losses. Because of new evidence of considerable ecological effects on the Gulf of Mexico and a softer market for Gulf seafood nationwide, the potential compensation available to crabbers and shrimpers has also been doubled.

We understand there are at least 4,000 shrimpers and crabbers who settled claims under the prior methodology. They should not be punished for agreeing with GCCF's assessment of the financial and environmental impacts of the oil spill, which you now acknowledge was incorrect. Additionally, because these original claims were calculated using GCCF's formula, retroactively applying this policy should be simple.

It is our hope that you will implement this policy immediately to ensure that individuals and business suffering with the ongoing affects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill are adequately compensated.

Respectfully,



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in green ink, featuring a large, sweeping loop that extends from the left and underlines the text.

Al Green
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, with a large, elegant loop on the left side and a more fluid, cursive style for the rest of the name.

Judy Chu
Member of Congress