



June 14, 2010

Tony Hayward
CEO
BP
1101 New York Avenue Northwest, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hayward:

We are writing concerning BP's pledge to spend \$500 million for scientific research into the impacts of the blowout disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. We strongly support scientific research into this horrific incident; however, it is vital that such research be overseen and carried out in a scientifically sound and unbiased manner to assure reliable, credible results.

To ensure that the \$500 million is spent in a way that advances scientific understanding of key issues, research should be selected, funded, overseen and disseminated so as to produce accurate results and greater public and scientific understanding, not in ways that distort or appear to distort the research agenda or research results, or that mislead the public about the true impact of the disaster. Given problems with BP's credibility to date – limited sharing of relevant data, constraints on media access to the Gulf, and scientific claims, about plumes, for example, that have proven to be inaccurate – we are very concerned about the manner in which this scientific research may be carried out.

With that in mind, we ask that the \$500 million be managed in accordance with the following principles:

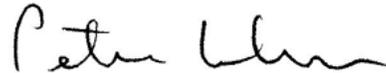
- 1) The money should be put into a fund overseen by an entity that is completely independent of BP and any other oil industry ties or influence. BP should turn all research funds over to this entity to administer the research program, and that entity should disburse the funds to the scientists. The National Academy of Sciences could appoint a panel for this purpose, for example. The research projects should be selected by this entity, not by a committee of independent scientists "chosen by the company," as was stated by a BP spokesperson in the press when the announcement of the \$500 million was made. Research projects that are selected by a panel hand-picked by BP – and presumably, subject to being altered by BP – cannot be seen as independent or credible. Similarly, a system in which scientists must deal directly with BP to receive payments will be viewed as tainted.

- 2) The data and research results from the research that BP funds must be made public. BP should have no control whatsoever over the design of the research, its conclusions or its publication.
- 3) BP must not ask scientists to limit their ability to testify in court or elsewhere for any party.

The \$500 million BP has promised must be spent in a way that is designed to further accurate, credible scientific understanding, not private interests. We look forward to hearing what BP will do to ensure that is the case.

Sincerely,

Peter Lehner



Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Carol Browner, Director, White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy
The Honorable John Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
The Honorable Eric Holder, Attorney General
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA
The Honorable John Rockefeller, Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Nick Rahall, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources
Committee

The Honorable Bart Gordon, Chair, House Science and Technology Committee

The Honorable Ralph Hall, Ranking Member, House Science and Technology
Committee

The Honorable Edward Markey, Chair, House Select Committee on Energy
Independence and Global Warming

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner, Ranking Member, House Select Committee
on Energy Independence and Global Warming

David Nagel, Vice President of Government Affairs, BP

Ellen Williams, Chief Scientist, BP