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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Statement of Representative Doc Hastings
Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
At the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight Hearing on

***"The Deepwater Horizon Incident: Are the Minerals Management Service
Regulations Doing The Job?"***
Thursday, June 17, 2010

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Though we are now in the 59th day of this ongoing crisis, our priorities remain the same as day one: stop the leak, clean up the spill and address the needs of communities and businesses in the Gulf.

Our next job is to get answers and fix the failures in order to prevent a disaster like this from ever happening again. What's needed are educated reforms, not a rush to judgment – to ensure all the necessary changes and reforms are made, we need to have all the facts about all that went wrong – both what went wrong out on that rig in the ocean, as well as in the federal bureaucracy charged with overseeing the drilling.

Today, we are specifically looking at MMS and its regulations.

As I've previously stated, the failures at MMS have been known for years.

There is bipartisan consensus that fundamental changes need to be made to the existing MMS structure. This must be done to ensure American-made energy production is the safest in the world.

On Tuesday, President Obama appointed Michael Bromwich as the head of MMS. It's unfortunate that he can't be here today to testify and answer questions. Hopefully we'll get to hear from him in the near future.

Any changes that are made, whether it's to MMS or any other policy, must be done right and thoughtfully in order to protect the environment, taxpayers and American jobs.