

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 18, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

We write today regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement's (BOEMRE) recent announcement that multidisciplinary teams instead of individual inspectors will now conduct the inspections of offshore oil and gas facilities. While you are hiring and training new inspectors, we respectfully remind you of a great human resource that is also available in the safety, reliability and quality assurance area- the NASA Space Shuttle contractor workforce.

As the Space Shuttle program winds down thousands of specialists (technicians, engineers and scientists) are being laid-off with an additional 3,000 scheduled for this summer. With minimal training, this skilled workforce could be used for offshore inspections. Standardization of inspection, consistency and operational efficiency is something this NASA contractor workforce lives by and they could bring that same knowledge, culture and focus to the BOEMRE, but you have to act quickly as this uniquely specialized group of women and men will be disbanding out of Clear Lake-Johnson Space Center soon.

There is also an abundance of physical assets (labs, facilities etc) that will be left at the Johnson Space Center that could also result in new technologies easily deployed by this unique workforce for assessment and prevention of potential offshore disasters. Our region is teeming with offshore and onshore energy knowledge, both private and public, that could be utilized in this process. If done wisely, the transition, human and technological, from space to energy could be managed in a cost effective manner and is something we would support.

We look forward to working with you on this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Pete Olson  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



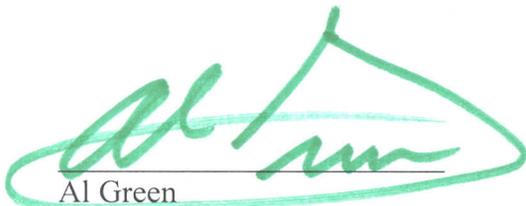
Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress



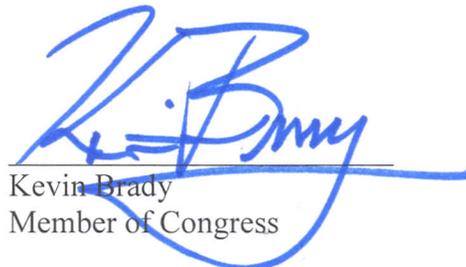
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



John Culberson  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



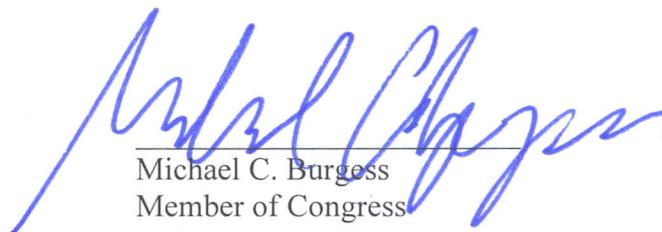
Charles Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



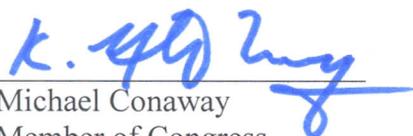
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress



John Carter  
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess  
Member of Congress



Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress



Ted Poe  
Member of Congress

CC: Director Michael Bromwich, BOEMRE  
CC: Administrator Charles Bolden, NASA