



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 6, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. President:

Florida is currently preparing for what we all know is an environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions for our state and our Gulf of Mexico partner states.

We are aware of relevant laws governing this response and the role of the responsible party, British Petroleum (BP), in this effort which is different than federal responses to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and similar tragedies.

However, in responding to those previous emergencies and disasters, Florida and other states have in the past benefited from the application of the Stafford Act, the engagement of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the availability of National Emergency Grants and Disaster Unemployment Assistance for workers not covered by state unemployment laws.

Encouraged by your pledge *"to spare no effort to respond to this crisis for as long as it continues...And we will spare no resource to clean up whatever damage is caused"*, we ask that you seek ways to help bring about an application of provisions of the Stafford Act that would permit disaster National Emergency Grants and the payment of Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

Florida seeks a \$50 million disaster National Emergency Grant from the United States Department of Labor as part of our collective response effort.

Again, we understand that under the responsible party, BP is liable to provide for all needs in this instance. However, due to the extensive nature of this disaster, the urgency of the disaster response and the longer term recovery implications, we are seeking this assistance because the Department of Labor's established processes have been proven to be effective and timely. Such engagement is urgently needed to help ensure a comprehensive state and federal response.

Due to the ever growing impact resulting from the continuing oil discharge, we urgently seek your full support and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

cc: Secretary Hilda Solis