

November 5, 2010

Dear City Commissioner,

It is common practice for congress to form an investigative committee to hold hearings regarding issues that impact their constituencies. The Deep Water Horizon explosion and subsequent cleanup is no exception. Committees like this usually enjoy almost unanimous support, however, in this era of regressive polarization, it is a major accomplishment to receive all but one vote in support of this committee in the House of Representatives.

Congratulations should go to the members of the House. The House bill for this investigative committee passed with only one no vote.

The Senate also must vote on this bill. The official Senate bill number for this bill is S3462. This bill also has broad support and was expected to pass with an overwhelming majority.

Unfortunately, the current rules of the Senate allow a single Senator to stop any bill through a filibuster mechanism. This is what actually happened. Jim DeMint of South Carolina, rejected this bill unless the committee was stripped of it's essential subpoena power.

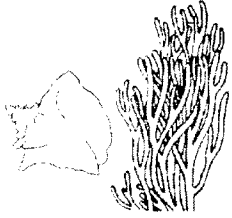
Without subpoena power there will be no accountability or confidence in the testimony before congress. Areas like the Florida Keys are depending on accurate and truthful information to better prepare for future catastrophes. Other national institutions such as the Coast Guard, NOAA, and the EPA will also benefit from a thorough investigation to handle incidences like the Deepwater Horizon by objectively studying the failures and victories of the past.

Therefore, the Florida Keys Environmental Coalition is asking all organizations, agencies, governing bodies, and individuals to endorse an initiative that will request the Senate reconsider this important action. Please go to [FKEC.org](http://fkec.org/) <<http://fkec.org/>> and follow the steps that will request reconsideration to allow a congressional investigative committee to proceed with subpoena power.

Perhaps future generations will gain a significant advantage in responding to major environmental disasters if we are smart enough to provide the mechanisms to learn from our mistakes.

Thank you,

Ed Russo  
Chair  
Florida Keys Environmental Coalition



## *FLORIDA KEYS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION*

October 8, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Florida Keys Environmental Coalition, we request that you reconsider legislation providing subpoena power to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, S3462. We recognize that there is no magic wand to instantly eliminate the need for fossil fuels. However, until other adequate fuel sources are available, we must ensure that the vital interests of public health, safety, and sustainability of our shared natural resources, are not compromised by oil exploration, production, or transportation.

In order to better protect the welfare of our citizens, we must learn from the mistakes of the past so that we may better prepare for the future. The power of the subpoena is an essential tool, which not only provides for the most accurate and comprehensive information with which to administer improvements to our essential energy processes; it also instills confidence in the legislative process that the American people and citizens of the world deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Russo, Chair  
Florida Keys Environmental Coalition