



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Gov. Crist:

On Tuesday I met with Bob Dudley, the BP executive in charge of the Gulf clean-up and recovery. I pressed Mr. Dudley hard on complaints I keep receiving about unpaid costs incurred by Florida counties hit by the oil spill -- more than \$7 million already, by one estimate.

While Mr. Dudley pledged to look into the matter promptly, he also noted that BP has given Florida at least \$50 million for response and clean-up costs, and \$25 million more for tourism promotion. The company also is in receipt of your recent letter requesting another \$50 million for tourism advertising and marketing.

Considering that at least eight Florida counties said earlier this week they still have not been reimbursed for costs associated with the BP spill, I would appreciate information on how the funds from BP intended to protect the coastlines are being distributed. There is confusion among some counties whether they should seek reimbursement from BP or from the state.

Meantime, thank you for all you are doing to protect Florida's economy and environment during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson