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Statement of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
Amendment to H.R. 1230, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act
May 4, 2011

Mr. Chairman, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill demonstrated that spilled oil does not abide by manmade boundaries, politely waiting at the borders for the resolution of jurisdictional conflicts.

Louisiana was not the only state that suffered due to the BP oil spill. My home state of Florida, along with Mississippi, Alabama and Texas, were also harmed.

Since oil spills involve multiple states, those states in position to be hurt should have a say in whether or not offshore drilling activities should be conducted in the leasehold areas posing them a danger.

In order to provide them the opportunity to be heard, my amendment requires unanimous written consent from the Governors of the states that would be affected should a spill occur on one of the properties in these proposed lease sales.

Due to an oil spill's potentially dangerous, far-reaching nature, this will include much of the east coast of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, by requiring expressed, written, and unanimous consent by the Governors of each of these states, my amendment gives them a say in whether offshore drilling is right for their states.

Furthermore, the amendment puts these Governors on record saying to their constituents that they believe that drilling off of their coasts is a safe and responsible activity and they trust oil companies to keep their coasts and constituents safe.