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Big Oil Wants to Bypass Safety Regulators, Again *“Beware oil companies offering bumper sticker slogans”*

Washington, DC (March 11) – 10 months after the worst oil disaster in American history, Big Oil is hoping to cash in on violence in Libya and convince the government to shut down safety regulators. The BP oil disaster killed 11 workers, cost billions to the Gulf economy, and dumped millions of gallons of toxic oil into the Gulf, killing turtles, dolphins, and thousands of birds. Oil still coats the Gulf floor today, and the full extent of the long-lasting damage to marine life isn't yet known.

“Beware oil companies offering bumper sticker slogans and diverting attention from our addiction to oil,” says Jeremy Symons, Senior Vice President for Conservation and Education at National Wildlife Federation. “Rushing to drill by bypassing safety regulations won't save American families a penny at the pump, but it will cost us plenty when the next oil spill disaster strikes.”

According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, oil companies have increased the price for oil drilled in America by \$12 per barrel in the 2 weeks following the outbreak of violence in Libya. That's a bigger increase than the \$10 jump in prices for Saudi oil.

“Oil companies just want to drill deeper into our wallets. The last time prices were this high, Big Oil made hundreds of billions of dollars in profits. They are now back for more.”

“Big Oil also wants to cash in on the \$350 million in campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures they have made in the past two years. The Big Oil allies in Congress who are leading the charge against safety regulations are the same members of Congress who have repeatedly blocked clean energy legislation that would offer real solutions to America's oil addiction.”

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