



For Immediate Release

Can Secretary Salazar's Vision Withstand Big Oil's Attacks?

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WASHINGTON, DC (September 30) – *Secretary of the Interior Kent Salazar today laid out his vision for a clean energy future, restored Gulf and stronger regulations of deepwater drilling operations.*

Adam Kolton, senior director of Congressional & Federal Affairs of the National Wildlife Federation, said:

“Secretary Salazar has laid out the right vision – to restore the Gulf, to strengthen oil and gas regulations in ways that better protect workers and the environment and most critically to advance a clean energy future.

“We are also encouraged by the Secretary’s commitment not to lift the moratorium on deepwater drilling until the risks from such drilling have been significantly reduced. As we’ve seen in the Gulf oil disaster, the stakes are too great to proceed hastily.”

“Unfortunately, oil and gas lobbyists and their allies on Capitol Hill have blocked the measures most critically needed. A comprehensive clean energy bill was blocked. Oil spill response legislation was blocked. Subpoena power for the Gulf commission was blocked. And a new substantial funding source for long-term restoration of the wetlands and marshes of the Mississippi Delta has yet to be created.

“We must demand of all our elected officials and candidates for office that they commit to the real work at hand: to implement the recommendations from Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus’ Gulf Restoration Plan. This is essential to achieving a restored and healthy Gulf coast that sustains Americans who depend upon vibrant seafood, tourism and recreation livelihoods.”

The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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