



House Spill Response Bill Draws Praise as It Heads to Floor Vote

Washington, D.C. (July 15, 2010) – The House Natural Resources Committee drew praise for acting decisively on reforms needed to ensure safer and cleaner energy policies in the U.S. NWF is crediting in large part the leadership of Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) for passage of the "Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act" (H.R. 3534). The bill is expected to get vote on the House floor in the next few weeks.

While the most immediate challenges are to stop the leak, clean up and contain oil, and assist the people of our Gulf Coast, NWF has long-demanded that the national response take up broader reforms.

“This bill gets it right. Responding to the spill demands not just more booms, skimmers and clean-up crews. Here we have real reforms to oil and gas industry leasing practices and expansion of clean renewable sources of energy that are sorely needed,” said Adam Kolton, national advocacy director for NWF. “More can be done and must be done, and Congress should continue to expand upon this effort in the weeks ahead.”

CLEAR Act’s provisions assure better environmental, safety, leasing and permitting practices both offshore and onshore, and to begin to roll back subsidies for fossil fuels. It calls for enhanced planning and investments in land, ocean and Great Lakes conservation, funded through offshore drilling revenue.

An important component of the oil spill response is the rapid expansion of renewable energy generation by establishing a commercial wind and solar leasing program on federal lands and associated fiscal management reforms. This is seen as the fairest way to provide more certainty for renewable energy developers and ensure natural and fiscal resource stewardship. The committee also supported a financial incentive for developing renewable energy in less ecologically sensitive areas.

In the weeks ahead, NWF will continue to press Congress to respond to the tragedy and grow the clean energy economy, by passing comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation and by providing for the long-term health of the Gulf Coast habitats and the Mississippi Delta.

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The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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Contacts:

Tony Iallonardo, senior communications manager, 202-797-6612, iallonardot@nwf.org