



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
JEFF ATWATER
STATE OF FLORIDA

January 20, 2011

Mr. Kenneth Feinberg
Administrator, BP Claims Fund
Willard Office Building, Suite 390
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1008

Dear Mr. Feinberg:

Yesterday you had the opportunity to meet with several hundred business owners and residents of North Florida who have been adversely affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. They are very fearful not only for the future of their families and businesses, but for the survival of their communities and way of life.

At today's meeting, you announced your intention to establish and publicize the methodology the Gulf Coast Claims Facility will use to determine final and interim claims payments. I am writing to formally request that a member of the Florida Department of Financial Services participate in the creation of that methodology.

Our office has been working and is in regular contact with hundreds of business owners and families who have lost, or are on the verge of losing, their businesses or homes due to financial losses directly stemming from the oil spill. In some cases, we have helped dozens of claimants get full or partial payments. With others, we have helped get a re-evaluation of their claim. Direct feedback from the claimants we have worked with, or are currently working with, reveal that clear guidelines on documentation required to prove a claim are desperately needed, and that the claims process has been a nightmare to navigate and completely lacks transparency.

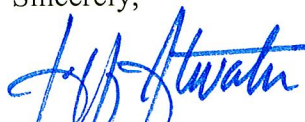
Moreover, many claimants have been waiting months for information on their claims. These are family, friends and neighbors losing not only the businesses they worked hard to build but also their homes and other assets. We have been on the phone with business owners facing eviction that same day, or who could not put food on their families' tables that night because their bank accounts had dwindled as they patiently waited for their promised claim payments.

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As Florida's Chief Financial Officer, I am committed to ensuring that every business and every resident negatively impacted by the oil spill is immediately compensated for rightful losses and made whole. To that end, we want to offer our insight for improving and expediting the claims process. We must work together to get Florida's families and businesses back on their feet.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer

c: Governor Rick Scott, State of Florida
Attorney General Pam Bondi, State of Florida
Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, State of Florida
Members of the Florida Legislature