



WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Olver released the following statement after President Obama's speech to the nation about the response to the BP oil spill.

"Tonight we heard the President explain the continuing, coordinated response to the oil spill. We learned that over five and a half million feet of boom have been laid across the water to block and absorb approaching oil, construction of new barrier islands has been approved to prevent oil from reaching more coastlines, and 17,000 National Guard troops have been authorized for deployment to join the 30,000 men and women already working tirelessly across four states."

"Like everyone, I am angered by the enormity of this disaster; however, I am encouraged by the plan already in place and the President's dedication to prevention for the future. As the clean-up team continues to respond on the ground, I agree with the President that we must also respond in a more broad way and face up to the combination of our large energy needs and the equally pressing need to address global climate change by setting aggressive new fuel standards and passing legislation that brings the United States into a 21<sup>st</sup> century clean energy economy."

"I stand alongside the President in his determination to hold BP accountable for the catastrophic damage they have caused. I have joined with Representative Welch (VT) and many of my colleagues in sending two letters to BP CEO Tony Hayward expressing the need for BP to halt their planned dividend payout and cancel their advertising campaign until the well has been capped, the Gulf Coast has been cleaned, and those whose livelihoods have been threatened or destroyed have been compensated for their loss. Like the President, I have also called for BP to establish a multibillion dollar escrow account, which would be available to cover cleanup costs and economic damages."

"I look forward to hearing the results of the President's meeting with Tony Hayward and will continue to push for BP to be held accountable."

###