

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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LOUISIANA STATE SENATE TO HOST OIL SPILL HEARING

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEES SCHEDULE MEETING AIMED AT GETTING THE LATEST FACTS ABOUT OIL SPILL

District 26 State Senator Nick Gautreaux (D-Meaux), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, is joining forces with Senator Norby Chabert (D-Houma) and Senate Environmental Quality Committee Chairman Jody Amedee (D-Gonzales) to get answers for the people of Louisiana. Their main goals include protecting the economic and environmental well-being of Louisiana citizens and communities and bringing about possible policy changes.

The Natural Resources Committee and the Environmental Quality Committee of the Louisiana Senate have scheduled a hearing concerning the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and resulting damages and cleanup to be held Thursday, June 17th at 9 a.m. The hearing will involve presentations and will give legislators the opportunity to directly question attending officials and representatives.

Sen. Gautreaux and Sen. Chabert have requested the presence of officials, or their representatives, from those companies, organizations and agencies that play important roles in counteracting the disaster. Governor Jindal, Tony Hayward, Executive Director of BP America Inc., Steven Newman, President and CEO of Transocean, James W. Ferguson, Sr., Vice President and General Counsel of Halliburton, Col. Alvin B. Lee, New Orleans District Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard are among those requested to attend.

"Knowing exactly where we stand right now is the only way we can move forward," said Sen. Gautreaux. "We need to know what is going to be expected of the state, and what

we can expect from the federal government and private parties. Bickering and finger-pointing is no longer an option. I will make sure that it stops and that the job gets done."

Sen. Chabert added, "I feel that the oil spill is the single most important issue, the most cataclysmic issue that this state may ever face. It's time the people of this state get some answers, and it is the responsibility of the Senate to get them. This crisis threatens our very way of life in coastal Louisiana and we must get to the facts of the long term effects of the cause of the disaster, the ongoing response and the inevitable recovery."

All parties agree that the situation Louisiana currently faces with the oil spill will be an on going battle with issues for legislators to face for months, even years, to come. Sen. Gautreaux and Sen. Chabert believe that the legislature must stay up to date in every respect.

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