

## **DRAFT USCM OIL SPILL DISASTER RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010 eleven crewmen died as a result of the explosion of the oil rig, Deepwater Horizon, in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, this oil spill threatens unprecedented harm to the environment, ecology and economy of the Gulf region and beyond, especially to many cities and local economies in many states, including Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the potential for significant dislocation of these economies is mounting, affecting vital industries including tourism, commercial and charter fishing, oystering and related coastal activities as well as generations of families working in these industries who will require unique and targeted support and assistance to minimize the dislocation caused by this catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, a variety of environmental risks are associated with offshore oil exploration and production, including such things as discharges or spills of toxic materials whether intentional or accidental, interference with marine life, damage to coastal habitats owing to construction and operations of producing infrastructure, and disruptions to the economic base of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, cities and other local government officials routinely work with state and federal government agencies and their officials to share resources and coordinate responses to disasters such as hurricanes, tornados and wildfires within their communities; and

WHEREAS, this oil spill poses substantial and unique challenges to all levels of governments, especially those cities and other local communities immediately affected, and requires a level of intergovernmental coordination that is unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, the responsible parties as well as the state and federal governments must act vigorously in ensuring that cities and their emergency response personnel are fully consulted and their complete and timely input is sought in executing response plans and other emergency measures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on President Barack Obama to initiate emergency assessments by key federal department and agencies including the Departments of Commerce, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development and Labor as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Economic Development Administration, and the Small Business Administration to provide timely initiatives, policies and actions to mitigate the devastation wrought by this release of pollution and advance the immediate rebuilding of impacted ecosystems and economies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors also urges the President to establish a special task force of senior federal officials, Mayors and other local elected officials from local areas that have been or are likely to be effected environmentally and/or economically by this disaster that provides timely and updated information on mitigation efforts and initiatives to limit the economic consequences of this release and develops strategies to minimize contamination and accelerate the environmental/economic recovery following containment of the spill;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President to initiate relief measures, including an Infrastructure Bank to facilitate the rapid revival of affected local and regional economies and specialized worker retraining initiatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that lead Federal agencies are coordinating closely with cities and other local governments in all phases of this national response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide additional resources for local cleanup efforts, economic losses and other financial assistance to local governments, ensuring that these resources are provided on a timely basis consistent with the schedule for reimbursing state governments for these purposes.