



STATE OF ARKANSAS
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DUSTIN MCDANIEL

October 8, 2013

The Honorable Tim Griffin
1232 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffin,

I appreciate all you have done to help the people in Mayflower. However, I am concerned about the impact of the federal government shutdown on those affected by the March 29 oil spill. I write to you today to request that you use your influence with Speaker Boehner and the leadership in Congress to reopen the government.

As you know my office is in litigation against Exxon Mobil. The litigation will be expensive and will require significant state and federal resources. I learned last week that employees of several agencies with which we are working cooperatively, including DOJ, have been furloughed because of the shutdown. For example:

Nineteen employees of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's Hazardous Waste Division have been furloughed. Two of them worked onsite in Mayflower.

Five of eight staff attorneys at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality are no longer at work.

The work of the robust environmental testing laboratory at ADEQ has been disrupted due to staff shortages until resolution of this matter in Washington.

More than two-thirds of the employees in the United States Department of Justice's Civil Division, our litigation partners, were furloughed.

Public reports indicate that PHMSA will be forced to lay off 274 of its 441 employees.

As Attorney General, it is my duty to ensure that our State remains in the best possible legal position. The reality is that this shutdown is very bad for the citizens of Mayflower and for our State. Our litigation is potentially impaired and the ongoing PHMSA investigation into the cause of this spill could be slowed considerably.

I pledged to the citizens of our State that I would hold Exxon accountable for this spill. The current shutdown, if it remains unresolved, will significantly impede those efforts.

I thank you for your time in reviewing my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dustin McDaniel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dustin McDaniel
Attorney General

DM:bp