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October 8, 2013

The Honorable Dustin McDaniel  
Attorney General  
State of Arkansas  
323 Center St, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about the impact of the federal government shutdown on those affected by the ExxonMobil Pegasus Pipeline oil spill that occurred in Mayflower on March 29, 2013. I totally agree and appreciate your kind words.

I continue to urge ExxonMobil and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to ensure that those affected are made whole, and I agree with you that a government shutdown impairs our collective efforts. I have made it crystal clear that a shutdown is bad policy and a terrible idea. I oppose a shutdown, and I will continue to do everything in my power to open the federal government as quickly as possible. In fact, I am leading a broad bipartisan group of Members of Congress tomorrow demanding that all of our leaders sit down and start talking to find a solution.

As you may know, President Barack Obama has so far refused to talk with us, and Senate Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid has blocked the bills the House has passed to open critical parts of our government. I would encourage you to communicate the need for negotiations to them and urge them to talk with us, so that we can ensure important government services for all Arkansans. President Obama, Speaker John Boehner and Majority Leader Reid should all be sitting down at the same table talking--hourly, daily, whatever it takes to reach an agreement.

I remain committed to ensuring that a thorough and extensive federal investigation and report from PHMSA is issued on the oil spill, ExxonMobil is held accountable for any wrongdoing and ExxonMobil and PHMSA take the appropriate and necessary steps to make sure our critical water supply for over 425,000 Central Arkansans is kept safe and secure. Again, I appreciate your comments and will continue my work to open the government, demand answers regarding the spill and ensure that the residents of Mayflower are made whole.

Sincerely,



Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress