Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2010

Tony Hayward
Chief Executive Officer, BP
1 St James's Square
London
SW1Y 4PD

Dear Mr. Hayward,

As BP presides over one of the greatest environmental and economic catastrophes of our time, we find it troubling that your company plans to divert financial resources to shareholder dividends and slick marketing campaigns.

Even as oil threatens to flow into the Gulf of Mexico for months to come, press reports indicate that you hope to distribute $10 billion in dividends to shareholders before the full cost of this devastating oil spill is known. At the same time, your company has launched an aggressive public relations campaign, with full page ads in major newspapers and a reported $50 million television blitz.

We urge you to halt your planned dividend payout and cancel your advertising campaign until you have done the hard work of capping the well, cleaning up the Gulf Coast and making whole those whose very livelihoods are threatened by this catastrophe. Not a moment before then should you return to business as usual.

Sincerely,

PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

ED MARKEY
Member of Congress

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress

JOHN J. HALL
Member of Congress

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