



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 12, 2010

Mr. Timothy R. F. Skaggs, Director  
Field Operations Center -East  
United States Small Business Administration  
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: Request for SBA Economic Injury Declaration

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the oil drilling rig Deepwater Horizon occurred approximately 130 miles southeast of New Orleans, Louisiana. The rig burned and then sank in the ensuing days. The rig contained at least 700,000 gallons of petroleum products when it sank, and the United States Coast Guard estimates that the well beneath the rig has been releasing approximately 200,000 gallons of oil a day into the Gulf of Mexico since the accident. All attempts to stop the flow of oil have been unsuccessful. As a result, there is a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that shifts with prevailing winds and currents. Due to the potential threat to Florida's coast, I signed Executive Order 10-99 declaring Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Gulf counties to be in a state of emergency on April 30, 2010. In Executive Order 10-100, I added Franklin, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties to the state of emergency.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill has negatively impacted many businesses in the affected Florida counties, including fisherman, hoteliers and other enterprises associated with tourism. The small businesses in these counties require financial assistance that is not available on reasonable terms in the impacted area. Based on this information and in accordance with Title 13 C.F.R. Part 123.3(a)(5), I certify that at least 5 small businesses in the disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the disaster. I therefore request that the SBA make an economic injury disaster declaration for all the Florida counties in the declared state of emergency and offer low-interest SBA disaster loans to the affected businesses.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If additional information is required to assist you in your determination, please contact Bill Owens, Bureau of Recovery, Florida Division of Emergency Management at (850) 413-9949.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

cc: David Halstead, Director