

Hold BP, Halliburton and Transocean Fully Responsible For The Gulf Oil Catastrophe

The President offered the excuse the other day that the reason why there was inadequate environmental vetting for what has become the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster was that a provision of law had passed which only permitted 30 days for such a review, making it a practical impossibility. Of course, that is precisely why corporate lobbyists for the oil industry inserted into law this crippling of any attempted regulatory oversight in the first place.

So too with the liability limitation of \$75 million on corporate responsibility for wreaking havoc on our environment. Again, this was just another corporate irresponsibility safety valve, so they would not have to even concern themselves about putting all the rest of us in grave danger. And so they did. It is even being reported that Transocean made a whopping \$270 million profit on the destruction of their over-insured drilling rig.

Each and every one of these corporate "get out of jail and liability free" cards must be immediately rescinded, starting with passage of the "Big Oil Bailout Prevention Liability Act of 2010", S. 3305. Republican Senators like Murkowski (from Alaska, home of Exxon Valdez) actually had the gall to argue that "smaller" oil companies should not be held liable at all for destroying our planet.

And then never again pass any law that favors the special interests of big corporations over the good public interest of the people of the United States.