

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) today wrote Governor Charlie Crist asking him to extend the state’s disaster declaration to include Charlotte County.

“While we all hope and pray that the spill can be contained and not reach our shores, we also must prepare for the worst. Charlotte County is aggressively moving forward with contingency plans if the oil were to reach its shores and having the emergency declaration will assist in its efforts,” Rooney wrote.

The full text of Congressman Rooney’s letter is below:

Dear Governor Crist;

As you know, the April 21, 2010 explosion and later sinking of the drilling platform Deepwater Horizon has created a massive oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico that grows larger every day and poses an increasing risk to our State’s shoreline. I am in receipt of your April 30, 2010 disaster declaration and the May 3, 2010 amendment that included all counties from Escambia south to Sarasota. I am writing today to respectfully request that the declaration be extended to include Charlotte County.

Charlotte County, which I have the distinct honor of representing in Congress, lies on Florida’s Gulf coast and is home to the picturesque Charlotte Harbor. Charlotte County has over 830 miles of shoreline including river passages, mangrove-edged aquatic preserve and 28 miles of sandy beaches. Every day, the threat of the oil spill reaching as far south as Charlotte grows more possible. While we all hope and pray that the spill can be contained and not reach our shores, we also must prepare for the worst. Charlotte county is aggressively moving forward with contingency plans if the oil were to reach its shores and having the emergency declaration will assist in its efforts.

I commend you for moving quickly to declare the state of emergency and the Department of Emergency Management and Department of Environmental Protection for their response to the situation and excellent efforts in keeping us apprised of the state’s efforts. Thank you for your consideration of my request, if you have any questions please contact my Legislative Director, Hannah Walker, at 202-225-5792 or Hannah.Walker@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Rooney

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