

## **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Position Statement**

Since last April, District 2, in fact the entire county, continues to address the consequences of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The spill, which was geometrically greater than the Exxon Valdez event two decades ago, pumped several hundred million gallons of oil throughout this upper gulf coast region. While I continue to ensure that BP does not leave until the beaches are truly cleaned, the real concern remains; that most of the oil has still not impacted our shoreline and sits on the ocean floor. I commend our county staff for the expertise they employed. They developed a strategic oil 'booming plan' that was ultimately adopted as an acceptable national response strategy. Today, our local action plan ensures that BP not leave until all impacts are addressed. We have worked hard to clean up the oil which we and the residents discover.

I pledge to you that I will continue to press BP to clean up the beaches and to compensate citizens and business owners for their fair and rightful share of revenues lost. We knew that long after the media took its spotlight off Pensacola, we would be left with an on-going concern. Oil will continue to impact our shores. A federally-based program sponsored by congress, with matching funds from BP, is the solution. Their massive effort to clean up is required. The ocean floor, from the shoreline to hundreds of yards out to sea, should be the primary focus. Doing otherwise does not address the real problem. BP said they would not leave until this was all cleaned up. I'm holding them to that. I will need your support and ask that you stand at my side when we take this issue as far as we must for resolution. There's a power in the spirit of the people on this coast. I'm honored to have you at my side as we go forward to protect Escambia's best keep secret, our sugar white sands.