

MARK BEGICH
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2009

Mr. Rex W. Tillerson
Chairman and CEO
Exxon Mobil Corporation
5959 Las Colinas Boulevard
Irving, TX 75039

Dear Mr. Tillerson:

I request Exxon do the right thing and immediately begin payments to the thousands of Alaska Natives, fishermen, business owners and other citizens whose lives and livelihoods were devastated by the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster.

I read with interest of Monday's Circuit Court of Appeals decision ordering Exxon to pay \$507.5 million in punitive damages, and approximately \$500 million in interest payments on punitive damages, to those affected by the spill. Now I understand your company is considering appealing that issue to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On behalf of the estimated 33,000 people whose lives were disrupted by this disaster 20 years ago, I urge you to finally put an end to this case and pay those who deserve compensation. The 11 million gallons of crude oil spilled in one of Alaska's most pristine regions teeming with fish and wildlife was disastrous for residents of my state. Lives were permanently disrupted, businesses bankrupted, fisheries affected for generations, thousands of birds and wildlife killed.

Exxon has dragged out this case far too long. Many of those impacted by the spill never lived to see compensation due them. I strongly urge Exxon to rethink any attempt to further appeal the damage award in this case and instead immediately compensate the thousands of Alaskans who have been waiting far too long.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator