



# Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

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June 11, 2010

Secretary Ken Salazar  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

I attended the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Hearing of June 9. I was most impressed with your conviction to keep the “pause button” policy on the question of offshore drilling until the nation can be absolutely sure that all safety provisions are in place, regulated and monitored, and that the risk of an environmental tragedy is minimal. Franciscan Action Network is an agency that works in collaboration with the Franciscan ministries in our country. You know from your Franciscan education that issues of the environment have a close place in the Franciscan heart. We understand and appreciate the “pause button” on offshore drilling. It is a correct response to the ongoing tragedy in the Gulf. Nevertheless we would encourage you to maintain your sight on the long-term energy solution. As long as offshore drilling poses a threat to life and our natural environment it is not the long-term solution. We urge you not to release the “pause button” before you are absolutely sure that the risk is minimal and that a long term solution to our petroleum needs is addressed that eliminates the need for offshore drilling.

Our Franciscan traditions call us to an ongoing love of creation. This is particularly challenging when our policies cater to our unquenchable demand for natural resources. As Franciscans, we do our part in conditioning that demand so that we can contribute a vision to society that puts a check on this unquenchable demand and to promote a greater sense of stewardship for our planet. We look for the day when the “pause button” becomes a “stop button”. We believe that policy reform on energy should give us incentives to become better stewards of the planet and lovers of the earth.

We will try to be of help to you in that direction of governance. We continually post items and resources on the Gulf situation and eco-justice on our website: [www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org)

In many ways you direct and manage the area that makes a critical difference for the wellbeing of our planet. We ask you to take the Franciscan approach into consideration to love God’s earth.

Sincerely,

Fr. Larry Janezic OFM  
Interim Executive Director