

Coffman Questions Salazar on Deepwater Horizon Spill

(WASHINGTON) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) made the following statement at today's House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion while questioning Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar:

As prepared for delivery:

"Secretary Salazar, on January, 20th, 2009 you were confirmed as the Secretary of the Interior. Just nine days later you were in Colorado where you publicly ordered a re-examination of the scandalized Interior Department's Minerals Management Service."

"At that event you said, "There's a new sheriff in town," and the American people took you at your word that you were going to make it a top priority to clean up MMS, but you didn't. At least not until the lax industry oversight of MMS contributed to what may turn out to be the single most significant environmental catastrophe in U.S. history."

"Can you with certainty tell me what assurances you can give to the American people going forward? Can you really change what is an incredibly dysfunctional agency? Where is the increase in oversight? Where is the new sheriff? The American people are seeking some assurances Mr. Secretary."

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