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Washington - U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12), the House sponsor of the Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act, today responded to comments made by House Minority Leader John Boehner that the federal government should share in costs created by the Gulf oil spill. Holt's legislation, which has nearly 70 cosponsors, would raise the \$75 million cap on liability for economic damages, including lost business revenues from fishing and tourism, natural resources damages, or lost local tax revenues. The bill would make it retroactive to apply to BP.

"The Minority Leader and the Chamber are wrong. BP is responsible for this disaster and BP - not the American taxpayer - should be responsible for every last cent of the cleanup costs and economic damages caused by the spill. My sympathies aren't with BP and Big Oil - my sympathies are with the small business owner, the restaurateur, the vacation home renter, the fishermen, and the American taxpayer," Holt said.

According to [TPM](#) :

“I think the people responsible in the oil spill—BP and the federal government—should take full responsibility for what’s happening there,” Boehner said at his weekly press conference this morning.

Boehner’s statement followed comments last Friday by US Chamber of Commerce CEO Tom Donohue who said he opposes efforts to stick BP, a member of the Chamber, with the bill. “It is generally not the practice of this country to change the laws after the game,” he said. “Everybody is going to contribute to this clean up. We are all going to have to do it. We are going to have to get the money from the government and from the companies and we will figure out a way to do that.”

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