(West Windsor, NJ.) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) released the following statement following today's announcement by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar that the Administration is lifting the ban, imposed after the BP oil disaster, on deepwater oil and gas drilling.

"When will we learn the lesson that there is no such thing as 'safe' or 'responsible' off shore drilling? The reality is that no amount of regulation can prevent tragedies like the one off the Gulf Coast.

If we allow offshore drilling, the nightmare in the Gulf could turn into a nightmare off the Atlantic or Pacific shore. We can't let that happen. Instead of reflexively relying on off shore drilling and fossil fuels, we should dedicate ourselves to developing clean, renewable sources of energy."

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