



Mitty Advocacy Project

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MAP Supports

H.R.2261 - Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act

- Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [D-FL-23]
- Introduced May 1, 2017
- Referred to Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations
- Summary
 - This bill was introduced to address various problems relating to oil spills, amending the Gulf of Energy Security Act of 2006 and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.
 - This bill also allows for organizations and groups such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and the Gulf Coast Regional Citizens' Advisory Council to be able to bolster their capabilities in addressing and averting detrimental oil spills by increasing their responsibilities.
 - The Coast Guard will have the added responsibilities of increasing safety inspections in designated high-risk areas and evaluating and validating oil pollution containment and removal methods and technologies. They must also publish an Incident Action Plan in response to an oil spill within 12 hours of the occurrence.
 - Requires the oil spill owner to be responsible for all spills and the resulting clean-ups.
 - Extends the moratorium on oil and gas leasing to certain areas in the Gulf of Mexico where accidents are more likely to occur.

MAP's Perspective

- **MAP supports this bill.**
 - This bill provides guidelines for agencies to anticipate and monitor oil spills, thus protecting biodiversity and ameliorating the harmful effects of toxic waste.
 - This bill ensures that oil spill companies are responsible for all clean-ups, allowing for responsibility and care for the environment to be passed on to corporations.
 - This bill requires the Coast Guard and NOAA to make oil spills a priority, making this issue a national concern. In doing this, we are being proactive in preparing for crises to better handle them and prevent as much damage to our marine habitats and animals as possible.





A Youth Perspective on this Issue

- At our age, we have had the privilege to experience Earth's oceans and the vast biodiversity that it supports, and we want future generations to have the same chances to witness the majesty of nature afforded to us.
- Currently, hundreds of barrels of oil are leaking into the Gulf of Mexico per day, and yet, many people are unaware. This one example shows how deadly oil spills are.
- Oil spills are toxic to humans and kill animal species that we depend on. As teenagers, we understand that our species is intertwined with the thousands of animals that each play their own role in the ocean ecosystem. If these animal populations are affected in any way, it will have detrimental repercussions for all of us.
- We know that the majority of pollution that is affecting our oceans today is caused either directly or indirectly by humans. Thus, we need to hold ourselves accountable and accept that it is our responsibility to clean up the damage we cause—the problem won't fix itself.

A Catholic Perspective on Oil Spills and Ocean Pollution

- The Catholic perspective follows the belief that care for the environment is a prevalent issue due to our view that we should be stewards of the environment. We should care for the land that will be used by future generations, especially being that we only have one earth.
- Care for God's Creation is one of the USCCB's major principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Creation is a gift from God and provides us with the basics for our lives, yet it can so easily and so often be taken for granted. Care for Creation ensures that we don't neglect, but protect and respect the gift that is our natural environment.
- *Laudato Si*, an encyclical published by Pope Francis, describes how all beings on this earth must care for each other and the resources we partake of; the Pope warns us that if we continue recklessly wasting and misusing resources, we soon will have nothing left to survive. He urges us to be more aware of the waste we generate and take concrete actions to reduce the amount of waste we are emitting in the future.

