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Congressman Henry Waxman
Chairman, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 29, 2007

Re: Downstream Health Effects of Oil Production

Dear Congressman Waxman,

I am sending a complimentary copy of my book, *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth*, on the effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS) on workers and wildlife in response to your committee hearings on U.S. energy industries.

I urge you to also look at the downstream costs of oil production on cleanup workers, public health, and the environment. Two people who testified at your October 31, 2007, hearing—Dr. Theo Coburn and Dr. Daniel Teitelbaum—are featured in *Sound Truth*.

There is proof that the 1989 cleanup harmed the health of thousands of cleanup workers; that Exxon was aware of this harm; and that government regulators were misled by Exxon. For example:

- p. 12 shows the MSDS for crude oil and chemical products used on the EVOS cleanup (Note products that contain the human health hazard 2-butoxyethanol specifically warn to keep product *out of waterways*: Why were these products used in Prince William Sound?)
- p. 33 Exxon's partial release form showing it paid workers \$600.50 to waive future health claims arising from cleanup work (once it realized workers were getting sick)
- p. 57 Exxon's clinical data showing a total of 6,722 upper respiratory "infections" were reported during the 1989 cleanup (I obtained these data before court records were sealed.)
- p. 450 Exxon's air quality monitoring data showing workers were overexposed to oil vapors, mists, and particulates as well as a variety of chemical products (I also obtained these data before court records were sealed.)

I have been working to hold Exxon and the federal government accountable for chemical injury to EVOS cleanup workers ever since workers first started calling me in May 1989. Exxon's worker safety program failed to adequately protect cleanup workers and it is likely literally thousands (est. 3,000 from Yale survey, p. 164) are suffering chronic health problems stemming from the EVOS cleanup. Given the chronic illnesses stemming from the cleanup, the "Valdez Crud" was likely symptomatic of a chemical poisoning epidemic caused by breathing oily particulates generated by the high-pressure wash—not simple "colds and flu" as Exxon medical doctors claimed.

I have also contacted Congressmen John Dingell (Oversight Investigation Committee) and George Miller (House Education and Labor Committee) about this matter (letter attached). **I urge you to consider removing the 2-year statute of limitations for filing toxic torts in hazardous waste cleanups retroactive to the Exxon Valdez cleanup.** I welcome the opportunity to speak with you about remedial action for past workers—and proactive steps to safeguard health of future cleanup workers.