December 8, 2011

*This letter reflects developments that have taken place since June 30, 2011.

To whom it may concern:

It is an honor to provide support for the unique, indispensable and desperately needed work of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network. We serve as legal director and investigator for the Government Accountability Project (GAP), a whistleblower support organization based out of Washington DC since 1977. Our mission is to promote corporate and government accountability by protecting whistleblowers, advancing occupational free speech, and empowering citizen activists.

In light of the BP Deepwater Horizon spill last April, GAP began a Gulf Coast Know Your Rights Campaign to raise awareness of Gulf worker whistleblower rights so that people who want to speak out can do so safely and effectively. We rely heavily on partnerships with community-based organizations to help GAP reach workers on the frontlines of these abuses, and LEAN has been our lifeline of information within the context of the Gulf oil spill.

The testimonials of gulf residents catalogued on LEAN’s website enabled GAP to expedite its approval of an investigation into unsafe working conditions throughout the oil spill cleanup; specifically, those practices that pose a substantial threat to public health and safety.

Since undertaking this project, we have used the testimonials and further guidance from LEAN to identify reliable witnesses for our ongoing investigation. The stakes of their statements are unmatched in GAPs experience. To preview, since 1977 our organization has taken over 1,000 affidavits from whistleblowers exposing public health threats. These threats have ranged from radiation, to contaminated meat and poultry, to food tainted by illegal drugs. With matters of government betraying the public trust, after the first 25 statements this case already is unsurpassed in terms of covering up human suffering and ongoing threats of still more public health tragedies.

GAP continues to rely heavily on LEAN to inform our work in the Gulf from Washington DC, as we navigate through volumes of government and corporate misinformation, media coverage remains largely dormant, and the most severe health problems (damage to the nervous system) seem to be progressing.

LEAN is providing a public service through its growing library of testimonials; its website serves as a forum for the most urgent, sensitive, and otherwise forgotten experiences of sick Gulf residents and workers, enabling these individuals to turn their information into power.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Tom Devine, Legal Director
202.457.0034, ext. 124

Shanna Devine, Investigator
240.888.2898 (c)