

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2021

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Capitol H232
Washington, D.C. 20004

Leader Mitch McConnell
Capitol S230
Washington, D.C. 20004

Leader Chuck Schumer
Capitol S221
Washington, D.C. 20004

Leader Kevin McCarthy
Capitol H204
Washington, D.C. 20004

Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

We urge the committees of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate hold oversight hearings to examine the response and recovery efforts related to the recent SEACOR Power tragedy in the federal waters of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

During a severe weather event on April 13, 2021, a 129-foot commercial liftboat owned by SEACOR Marine (SEACOR) capsized eight miles off the coast of Port Fourchon, LA. The United States Coast Guard responded to the event and carried out search and rescue operations from April 13 through April 19, 2021. Tragically, the incident resulted in 6 deaths with 7 crewmembers still unaccounted for.

This tragedy has exposed gaps in existing vessel response plans and has raised concerns regarding the recovery efforts, the frequency and timeliness of updates for the crewmembers' families, as well as the time it has taken to remove the vessel from the water. As of the writing of this letter, the vessel still remains capsized in the water- 31 days after the incident. This is inexcusable and has resulted in further tragedy for the families who are still awaiting final news of their missing loved ones.

It is imperative that Congress exercise its oversight authority and take steps to review actions taken to ensure policy gaps are fixed and any lessons learned from the tragedy result in more efficient procedures and a higher degree of marine safety in the future.

We ask respectfully that the committees of jurisdiction conduct necessary oversight hearings on this tragedy and opportunities to improve marine safety procedures overall. Congress

has an obligation to take a deeper look into emergency response measures to assist and prevent such tragedies in the future. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Clay Higgins
United States Congressman



Steve Scalise
United States Congressman



Garret Graves
United States Congressman



Mike Johnson
United States Congressman



Julia Letlow
United States Congresswoman