WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 16, 2012) – Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky released the following statement today in response to the settlement reached between BP and the U.S. government after the Deepwater Horizon disaster:

“Yesterday, BP agreed to plead guilty to 12 felony charges in connection with the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. While nothing can adequately fill the void left by the men who lost their lives, I hope this settlement at least brings their families a sense of justice.”

“This record $4.5 billion settlement – the largest criminal settlement in American history – does not shield BP from tens of billions of dollars in liability as a result of civil penalties, including violations of the Clean Water Act. I am confident that BP’s Clean Water Act violations will result in substantial financial penalties for the company, and I will continue to monitor the pursuit of those violations closely moving forward.”

“The prosecution of BP sends the clear message that no company can get away with violating our laws, jeopardizing the health and safety of our families, threatening our businesses, or despoiling our environment. I expect all companies to take very seriously the lesson of BP, and to take all steps necessary to avoid a similar tragedy.”

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