

HANDS SAND

Hands Across the Sand Is Coming To Your Beach June 26

Hands Across The Sand Press Statement

Dave Rauschkolb, Founder

On June 26 at 12:00 noon Americans and the world will have an opportunity to join hands on our beaches and draw a line in the sand against expanded offshore oil drilling in our waters. This event will happen on our beaches in our cities and in solidarity events across the world.

This is an opportunity of national and global importance; an opportunity for any individual to go to their beach or city and join hands in the protection of our coastal economies, marine environment and wildlife.

This isn't about politics, it's about protecting all we hold so dear. It does not matter whether you are a liberal or conservative, businessperson or environmentalist, grandfather or teenager. We are all Americans and world citizens who value our coastal heritage.

We are joining hands to say NO to offshore oil drilling and Yes to Clean Energy.

In Florida on February 13, 2010 over 10,000 people joined hands on nearly 100 beaches along the entire coastline. We gathered to stop the expansion of oil drilling in our coastal waters. Now, just a few months later our entire Gulf of Mexico marine environment and coastal economy is at risk from the very thing we tried to stop: offshore oil drilling off our coast.

The Deepwater Horizon disaster is a wake up call. Even as the Gulf disaster grows, British Petroleum and other oil companies continue to push for new offshore drilling anywhere oil might be found regardless of the risks they pose. The offshore drilling industry is a dirty, dangerous business and no one industry should be able to place entire coastal economies and marine environments at risk. Why is this allowed to

happen?

America could be, should be one of the world's leaders in expanding cleaner energy sources yet, our political process is paralyzed by oil money and influence. It is time for our leaders in all countries to take bold, courageous steps and open the door to clean energy and renewables and finally extend a hand to free our countries from our addiction to oil.

Together we have an opportunity to change America and the world on June 26. This is a critical turning point in finally changing our prehistoric energy policy towards the light of clean energy. Let us work together and share our passion and energies to protect our coastal economies, our oceans, our beaches, our waterfowl and our marine life.

On behalf of those who have been and continue to be affected by this disaster of epic proportions in our Gulf of Mexico we extend our deepest appreciation to all of you for Joining Hands across America and the world on June 26.

It is simple. Any person can go to the handsacrossthesand.org website and sign up to organize a beach or city. Downloadable tools are also available on the website: free posters, T-shirt designs and newspaper ads.

Dave Rauschkolb is a surfer and the owner of 3 restaurants on the Beach in Seaside, Florida, located on the northern Gulf Coast between Pensacola and Panama City.

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