

Dear Friend,

The oil spill – and subsequent environmental damage – in the Gulf Coast has been frustrating for all of us. But this week, I met with one little girl from Long Island who is turning her frustration into solutions.

When 11-year-old Olivia Bouler, from Islip, saw what the oil spill had done to the Gulf Coast's wildlife, she was moved to tears. An aspiring ornithologist and artist, the environmental damage to the Gulf was enough to spur Olivia to action. She began selling her watercolor paintings of birds to raise money for cleanup efforts. Now, she has raised more than \$175,000!

I met with Olivia in Washington last week to talk about the spill, the environment, and one of her greatest concerns: our dependence on foreign oil. Young people like Olivia are our greatest reminder that Congress must work to curb our addiction to oil and preserve the environment for future generations. That's why I've championed issues like renewable energy incentives and energy efficiency, and pushed for legislation that promotes green infrastructure. If an 11-year-old can produce results for a cleaner future, Congress should be able to do so as well.

For more information on my work for energy independence, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress