

ST. TAMMANY LEVEE, DRAINAGE AND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RISEE ACT of 2021
BY
SENATOR CASSIDY (R-LA) & SENATOR WHITEHOUSE (D-RI)



WHEREAS, many of the energy resources enjoyed by the entire United States are dependent upon the health of Gulf Coast ecosystems which provide access to those resources and related infrastructure and protection for communities that house its workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act would establish several dedicated streams of funding for coastal infrastructure and resiliency in order to protect vulnerable communities and businesses most impacted by sea level rise and coastal erosion; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act creates a new revenue sharing model from future offshore wind development in federal water adjacent to coastal states; and

WHEREAS, unlike for other forms of energy for which royalties are shared with adjacent states and conservation programs, current law requires that all revenues generated from offshore wind leases and production beyond state-adjacent waters be returned to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act would send 50% of offshore wind revenue to the adjacent states, based on a formula developed by the Secretary of Interior inversely proportional to the distance from the wind farms; allow state funds to support coastal restoration, hurricane protection, or infrastructure improvements; mitigate damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, including through fisheries science and research; implement federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plans; and protect the state revenues from sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act makes improvements to the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF), and also dedicates a portion of wind energy revenues to the NOCSF; and

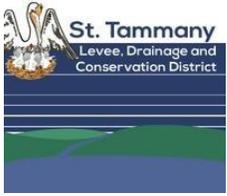
WHEREAS, the RISEE Act will also lift the cap on the state-side portion of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and directs a portion of funds to NOCSF; and

WHEREAS, all coastal and Great Lake States would benefit as a result of the RISEE Act's enactment; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act makes needed improvements to the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006 and allows for a more equitable resource sharing between the states and federal conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act eliminates states' GOMESA revenue sharing cap, currently at \$375 million; increases the amount of GOMESA revenue shared with states from 37.5 percent to 50%; lifts the LWCF's state side funding cap of \$125 million; makes oil and gas leases from 2000-2006 eligible for future GOMESA payments of Gulf coast states; protects GOMESA revenues from sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the RISEE Act does not incentivize or mandate energy production. Rather, for the first time, creates parity in revenue sharing with states and establishes revenue sharing for offshore wind in federal waters. States with onshore oil and gas drilling have benefitted from generous revenue sharing policy for decades, while GOMESA states lack the same treatment. Under the RISEE Act, improvements to revenue sharing policy provides robust, dedicated reinvestment into the ecosystems and communities that support energy production.



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WHEREAS, for Louisiana coastal parishes, the GOMESA revenue stream is a critical recurring source of revenue that allows us to address our coastal protection and restoration needs. The State of Louisiana has been a great partner in addressing some of our needs, but the funds that are allocated directly to the parishes have allowed us to have a seat at the table when discussing future coastal protection and restoration projects.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ST. TAMMANY LEVEE, DRAINAGE AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD, HEREBY:

1. Thanks Senators Cassidy and Whitehouse, for their leadership in the this critically important effort.
2. Fully supports the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act, which would establish several dedicated streams of funding for coastal infrastructure and resiliency in order to protect vulnerable communities and businesses most impacted by sea level rise and coastal erosion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Biden, members of the United States Congress, Governor John Bel Edwards and the Chairman of Louisiana Coastal Protection, and Restoration Authority Board.

Commissioner Suzanne Krieger,
Chairwoman

Commissioner John Faust, Jr.
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