

Reinvesting in America’s Shoreline Economies & Ecosystems (“RISEE”) Act

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What would the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act accomplish?

The 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. The legislation creates a new revenue sharing model from federal offshore wind revenue generation between the federal government and coastal states beyond six nautical miles from a state’s coastline. The bill makes improvements to the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF), and also dedicates a portion of wind energy revenues to the NOCSF. Finally, the bill reforms the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to allow for a greater state share of revenue from Gulf energy production. It also lifts the cap on the state-side portion of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and directs a portion of funds to NOCSF.

2) Which states benefit from the RISEE Act?

All coastal and Great Lake States would benefit as a result of the RISEE Act’s enactment. In addition inland states which benefit from LWCF state-side funding may also see increased benefit from a removal of the \$125 million cap in GOMESA.

3) How may states spend these funds?

NOCSF funds may be used for resiliency and infrastructure, habitat protection and restoration, monitoring, and reducing damage to natural resources and marine life. GOMESA has a narrow set of eligible uses focused on environmental protection and coastal resiliency in Gulf States. Eligible uses from federal offshore wind revenues include coastal restoration, hurricane protection, or infrastructure. Offshore wind revenues may also be used to mitigate damage to fish, wildlife, or other natural resources, including through fisheries science and research, and to implement a marine, coastal, or conservation management plan.

4) How would this bill affect the LWCF?

Current law, as defined by GOMESA, caps the amount of eligible funding that the LWCF state-side program can receive at \$125 million per year. The RISEE Act eliminates this cap.

5) What is the National Oceans & Coastal Security Fund?

The National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16. U.S.C. 7501 *et seq.*), enacted as part of the FY16 omnibus, established NOCSF to support activities intended to protect, conserve, and restore our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. NOCSF is jointly administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). To achieve its purposes, it supports a national competitive grant program as well as formula block grants to coastal states. The RISEE Act specifies 75 percent of NOCSF shall be used for the state block grants (by formula with no state receiving more than 5 percent) and 20 percent for the national competitive grant program, leaving 5 percent for administrative costs.

6) What currently happens with federal dollars from offshore wind energy and how does the RISEE Act change this?

Under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 27 percent of offshore wind revenues generated by bonus bids, rents, and royalties on production between three and six nautical miles from state's coast are shared with nearby states. Beyond six nautical miles, all revenues are retained by the Treasury. The RISEE Act would return 50 percent of revenues from offshore wind generation to states based on a formula outlined in the legislation, 37.5 percent to the NOCSF, and the remainder to the U.S. Treasury.

7) How would Gulf States benefit from the proposed changes to GOMESA?

The RISEE Act would bring greater equity to the Gulf States by eliminating an existing state revenue sharing cap of \$375 million. It would also provide a 50 percent revenue sharing distribution for GOMESA states, protect GOMESA

payments from any sequestration cuts, and make oil and gas leases from 2000-2006 eligible for future GOMESA payments to Gulf coast states. Between FY18 and FY20, according to the Department of Interior, Gulf Coast states could have shared an additional \$715.4 million for environmental protections were more leases GOMESA eligible.

8) Does the RISEE Act incentivize additional energy production?

No. States have no control over energy production that takes place in federal outer continental shelf waters or deepwater, where almost all offshore energy production occurs. Decisions made with respect to energy production in federal outer continental shelf waters or deepwater fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. By law, the Department of Interior is required to prepare, periodically revise, and maintain an offshore oil and gas leasing program. In addition, President Biden has committed to auctioning up to 30GW of offshore wind leases to add to the 16 leases in the Atlantic currently held by companies.