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February 2, 2023

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
The United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

The South Central Industrial Association (SCIA), our 245 member companies and their 240,000 employees, are directly involved in the oil, gas, marine and energy service industries. They are the economic driver of the state and are powering American energy production in the US Gulf of Mexico. SCIA advocates on their behalf for levee protection, infrastructure, regulatory issues, workforce development, coastal preservation, and coastal restoration, all of which are funded through the oil and gas revenues. Additionally, a growing segment of our membership are employed in the water management and coastal restoration industries. Both of seemingly disparate economic clusters have a great common denominator – they are both powered by robust offshore energy exploration and production and the existing revenues directed to coastal restoration and protection via GOMESA.

Today we write in support of the **Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act** which would establish several dedicated streams of funding for coastal infrastructure and resiliency derived from offshore energy production of all types of sources including traditional oil and gas as well as offshore wind. Establishing investments like those outlined in the RISEE Act is foundational to implementing Louisiana's Comprehensive Coastal Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, which aims to protect our communities, businesses, and vibrant culture.

Louisiana's Bayou Region is the home of deepwater oil and gas business because of our innovative people and our unique coastal landscape providing the geography, assets, and base of development for oil and natural gas exploration, production, and refining. This extensive network of people, places and infrastructure also positions Louisiana's Bayou Region as the natural place to serve as a hub of offshore wind and renewable energy production as well, and our people and businesses stand ready to foster and support the development of this new industry.

It is only appropriate that SCIA and our members support the RISEE Act's efforts to ensure the revenues generated off our coast from all sources are shared equitably in ways that allow us to continue to fund the infrastructure required to protect our communities and working coast.

Senator Cassidy, we stand ready, willing, and able to assist with finding a way to balance both the economy and environment of our working coast through sustainable coastal investments—please let us know how we can be of assistance and thank you for allowing us an opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
  
Christy Alley Zeringue  
Executive Director