

## Update from the GOMESA Revenue Sharing Coalition (GRSC)

*The GRSC is a coalition of Coastal Professionals, policy makers and other stakeholders from across the gulf coastal, energy-producing states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas led by the Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs, and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Our mission is to collectively advocate for equitable treatment of our coast as it relates to the funding of Coastal restoration, sustainability, and resiliency projects. Our goal is to protect and expand the Gulf Of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to ensure that the primary funding mechanism for coastal protection projects is preserved and thus arming us with the tools necessary for a healthy and thriving coast. The following email from Meg Vanderbook Bankston, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor of Louisiana provides the current state of our fight for the working coast.*

All,

This week the Congressional battle over the allocation of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues took an unanticipated turn – a turn that will be devastating for Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Mississippi without immediate, effective action – but a turn that could result in a major victory for the gulf coast states. This decisive action will be determined in the next two to three weeks!

### **Threat: Immediate Congressional Action Allocating OCS Energy Revenues**

On March 3rd, President Trump surprised almost everyone when he tweeted his support for legislation that allocates OCS revenues to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to deferred maintenance in the national parks. Very specifically to assist the re-election efforts of Senator Gardner of Colorado and Senator Daines of Montana, the President endorsed these two bills and called on Majority Leader McConnell to schedule these bills for action in the Senate. Yesterday afternoon (March 4th), a large bipartisan group of Senators held a press conference to celebrate this new support of the President and to pledge their efforts to move this legislation to the President's desk. Majority Leader McConnell is scheduling these bills for action in the next two to three weeks.

### **Problem for Gulf States: Loss of Opportunity to Be Treated Equally as Other Energy Producing States**

What the President did not include in his endorsement of this legislation was any increase in the OCS revenues that are shared with the coastal producing states that are experiencing onshore impacts from federal offshore oil and gas development. Please focus on these numbers:

- States containing federal energy producing lands receive 50% of the revenue derived annually from these resources to offset the impacts of this federal activity. For 2019, for example, New Mexico received \$1.1 billion from federal oil, gas and coal development in New Mexico
- The four gulf coast states receive a share of OCS revenue through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). Our states received no share of revenue from the beginning of federal offshore oil and gas development in the early

1950s until 2017 when GOMESA became effective. And, due to budget constraints in place at the time, GOMESA does not provide 50% of the OCS revenue to the gulf coast states – the federal share that goes to inland states – but only about 5% annually of the OCS revenue from the gulf.

- Under GOMESA, the four gulf coast states receive no more than \$375 million annually – not individually, but to be shared among the four states.
- One of the bills President Trump now supports, the Land and Water Conservation Act, would distribute \$900 million of OCS revenue annually around the nation for federal land acquisition and recreation.
- The other bill that President Trump now supports, the Restore Our Parks Act, would distribute \$1.3 billion in OCS revenues to deferred maintenance in the national parks.
- Together, these two bills now endorsed by President Trump would distribute over \$2 billion in OCS revenues annually without increasing revenue sharing for the gulf coast states one penny more than \$375 million per year.

The overwhelming majority of the Members of the Congressional delegations of these four states strongly support President Trump.

### **CALL TO ARMS:**

Please ask Senate and House delegation members to:

- Use all of their power and influence to call on the President to treat the Gulf States fairly and add increased GOMESA revenue sharing to these popular bills that allocate OCS revenue.
- In Senate and House scheduling of OCS revenue legislation, demand parity for Gulf States equal to other energy producing states: 50% share of federal revenues from energy development off Gulf States, without a limit or cap---just what other states receive from hosting federal energy development..
- Work together to stop Senate consideration of these bills until our needs are addressed.

If our delegations will exercise their power, if the President will respond positively – we will win an increase in GOMESA funds. Our ask is to please call on the delegation Members now to act immediately to protect the interests of our states.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Meg

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