Citizens' Climate Lobby

Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act

(S. 373 / H.R. 913)

The Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act, introduced in the 118th Congress by Senators Whitehouse (D-RI) and Cassidy (R-LA) and Representatives Fletcher (D-TX) and Weber (R-TX), would develop dedicated funding streams for coastal infrastructure and resilience efforts to safeguard vulnerable communities and businesses most threatened by sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bipartisan legislation would establish a new revenue sharing model between the federal government and coastal and Great Lakes states for federal offshore wind money generated beyond six nautical miles from a state's coastline. It also amends the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to remove the revenue cap states receive from money generated by Gulf energy production. These efforts will enable more equal resource sharing among states, the federal government and conservation initiatives. The bill also strengthens the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF), which serves coastal and Great Lakes states, by dedicating a percentage of wind energy earnings to it and removing the cap on the state-side share of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and redirecting funding to NOCSF.

While the RISEE Act primarily impacts coastal states and communities the impacts of a thriving offshore wind industry would serve to benefit the nation at large. The RISEE Act also provides two main benefits for Inland States.

1. The bill amends GOMESA by lifting the Land & Water Conservation Fund's state side funding cap of $125 million. In 2017 GOMESA revenues disbursed to the LCWF jumped to nearly $67 million having never exceeded $2 million in any year prior. Revenues reached a high of $129 million in 2019 before the $125 cap was implemented. At present the cap is in place through 2055, so the RISEE Act could provide millions of dollars in revenue for decades to come.

2. The bill eliminates an administrative fee under the Mineral Leasing Act. This section reverts the royalty structure under the Mineral Leasing Act back to an equal split between the federal government and inland energy producing states by eliminating a 2 percent fee that the Department of the Interior collects to administer the onshore revenue sharing program.

States that would benefit the most from this provision include New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and North Dakota.

CONTACT: Ben Pendergrass, CCL VP of Government Affairs, ben@citizensclimate.org
www.citizensclimatelobby.org