



State of Louisiana
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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GOMESA state payments critical to state's coastal protection and restoration program

BATON ROUGE - Today, Governor John Bel Edwards released a statement asking Louisiana's congressional delegation and neighboring Gulf Producing States to oppose President Trump's budget proposal, which calls for the elimination of GOMESA state payments. "I am asking the Louisiana congressional delegation and neighboring Gulf Producing States to oppose this plan and adopt a responsible budget that doesn't unfairly turn a blind eye to our region," stated Edwards.

Edwards went on to say, "This proposal sets us back decades, threatens our way of life and could have devastating economic effects across the entire country. To put it simply, this budget proposal is negligent. The resources which must travel through the infrastructure networks in Louisiana require an ongoing federal funding commitment in order to maintain the environments and communities which make that possible. Ignoring the significance of Louisiana's coast, its assets and its impact to this country is short sighted, and turns its back on the people of the Gulf Coast and consequently, our nation's citizens who depend on energy resources found off the coast of our state."

In recent years, Louisiana and the Outer Continental Shelf waters just off its shore have been the second largest producer of crude oil and the second largest producer of natural gas in the nation. "For decades, the Louisiana congressional delegation – Republicans and Democrats – have fought to secure dedicated funding to offset the effects of oil and gas leasing and production along our coast. Permanent sharing of federal revenues is critical to ensure Louisiana's coast remains fully operational, protects vital national infrastructure and provides the necessary barriers to protect our working coast and citizens," stated Edwards.

GOMESA, The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, was established as a permanent mechanism for sharing Federal revenues from oil and natural gas leasing and production on the Gulf of Mexico Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas (Gulf Producing States, or GPS), and is the funding stream upon which the state's coastal program was established. GOMESA addresses the need, in perpetuity, to fund efforts to protect and maintain Louisiana's coastal resources, in order to support and secure the integrity of those resources, now and in the future, to sustain the industry of oil and gas extraction.



Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities also voiced concern, stating “President Trump’s budget proposal to eliminate GOMESA revenues would essentially end the coastal program as we know it. GOMESA is the coastal program’s only source of recurring revenue from the federal government and it’s a revenue stream we have largely planned our efforts around. Eliminating GOMESA would have wide ranging impacts in our ability to restore our coast and protect our coastal communities.”

GOMESA funding is slated for projects which support, protect and maintain Louisiana’s coast, which supplies the nation with energy (production, transportation, and refining), and provides over-water access to national and international markets for agricultural and petrochemical producers throughout the Mississippi River watershed. “If allowed to continue, Louisiana’s deteriorating coast will be a liability borne by the entire United States,” Bradberry commented. Direct land loss in Louisiana threatens \$3.4 Billion in assets, \$7.4 billion in economic activity, and up to 12,200 jobs. Furthermore, a single storm striking the New Orleans area in a future with increased land loss could result in a \$133 billion increase in storm damages in spite of the \$14.5 billion federal post-Katrina investment. Economic disruptions from this storm event could affect 26,000 establishments, 320,000 employees and \$50 billion in output above the impacts of a similar event occurring on today’s coast.

In the aftermath of Hurricane’s Katrina and Rita, Louisiana instituted three sweeping changes to their approach to the coast. Consolidating state efforts into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and enacting levee district reform were the first two steps. The third action was to pair the efforts of the coastal program with a protected and recurring funding stream. This effort culminated in 2006 when Louisiana’s citizens voted overwhelmingly to constitutionally dedicate the revenues it received through GOMESA to its Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund for the sole purposes of integrated coastal protection (a designation which includes coastal wetlands conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, or infrastructure directly impacted by coastal wetland losses).

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Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the single state entity with authority to develop, articulate, implement, and enforce a comprehensive coastal restoration and protection Master Plan of unified vision to reduce hurricane storm surge flood impact, to restore our bountiful natural resources, to build land to protect our nation’s critical energy infrastructure, and to secure Louisiana’s coast now and for future generations.