



State of Louisiana

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Federal Update

*Accomplishments to Finish 2024
and Opportunity in 2025*

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LA Department of Energy & Natural Resources
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WRDA 2024 Wins for Louisiana Coastal Program

Request	Section(s)
Authorization of \$5.9 billion St. Tammany Flood Risk Management project	1401
Authorize studies for Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Reduction project and New Orleans Metro Area for ecosystem restoration and water supply, including mitigation of saltwater wedges	1201
Expansion of Alexandria to the Gulf study area to align with LA Watershed Initiative Region V	1202
Clarification of HSDRRS Payback provision to protect compliance with payback terms	1358
Extension of 3017 authority to 2033 to raise HSDRRS levees after settlement, subsidence, etc.	1303
Authorize Pointe Celeste Pumping Station as a \$50M environmental infrastructure project	1304
Extension of Section 1020 cross crediting authority to 2030, allowing CPRA to better use credit	1303
Morganza to the Gulf eligible for credit from prior work before signed PPA back to 1989	1318
Authorize Morganza to the Gulf tie in to Upper Barataria Basin to prevent gap in protection	1215
Larose to Golden Meadows pathway to re-entry into federal Rehab and Inspection Program	1317
Affirm that Algiers Canal OMRR&R will be conducted by USACE at 100% federal expense	1214
Provisions related to minimum real estate and easements required by USACE	1104, 1145
Address project partnership agreement policies related to indemnification and indefinite operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) through GAO study	1244
Help activate Sec. 1043 authority for greater non-Federal sponsor leadership	1303, 1150

2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund Awards

The National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) provides grants for coastal projects, leveraging federal dollars from NOAA and Department of Defense, as well as private partners like Shell and Occidental.

GULF

Assisting Gulf Coast Community-based Organizations Plan for Coastal Resilience (AL, LA, MS)

Grantee: Anthropocene Alliance
Grant Amount:.....\$482,600
Matching Funds:.....\$200,000
Total Project Amount:.....\$682,600

Build capacity for community-based organizations in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to begin coastal resilience planning. Project will support community-based organizations, develop protocols for nature-based solutions that protect flood-prone communities and enhance wildlife habitats in three of the highest risk states in the nation.

Designing Marsh Restoration on South Avery Island (LA)

Grantee: McIlhenny Resources
Grant Amount:.....\$500,000
Matching Funds:.....\$0
Total Project Amount:.....\$500,000

Create designs to restore brackish marsh habitat on South Avery Island through the creation of a living shoreline. Project will develop designs for 152 acres of marsh creation and an additional 48 acres of marsh enhancement to improve the health of intermediate marsh and support a diverse community of fish and wildlife species.



Aerial image of Avery Island in 1976, courtesy of Avery Island Archives.

2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund Awards

In 2024, NFWF gave 8 awards to Louisiana for a total \$12.1 million with \$1 million matched, resulting in a \$13 million impact to our coast.

Constructing Marsh Terraces in the Upper Barataria Basin of Jefferson Parish - Phase II (LA)

Grantee: Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs

Grant Amount:..... \$1,321,600
Matching Funds:..... \$73,100
Total Project Amount:..... \$1,394,700

Restore 150 acres of former brackish marsh habitat by constructing 12,000 linear feet of marsh terraces from on-site material stabilized with native marsh vegetation in the Upper Barataria Basin. Project will reduce wave fetch on the southeast side of the Barataria Marsh Creation Project and expand Jefferson Parish’s multiple lines of defense to increase its overall resilience and protection from coastal storms.

Developing Plans to Restore Wetlands across the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans (LA)

Grantee: Sankofa Community Development Corporation

Grant Amount:..... \$800,000
Matching Funds:..... \$277,000
Total Project Amount:..... \$1,077,000

Assess and design nature-based solutions to restore and expand more than 560 acres of wetlands to increase protection from coastal hazards for communities across the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans. Project will improve fish and wildlife habitats, address soil subsidence and flood risks, and enhance native flora and fauna through sustainable approaches to coastal resilience.

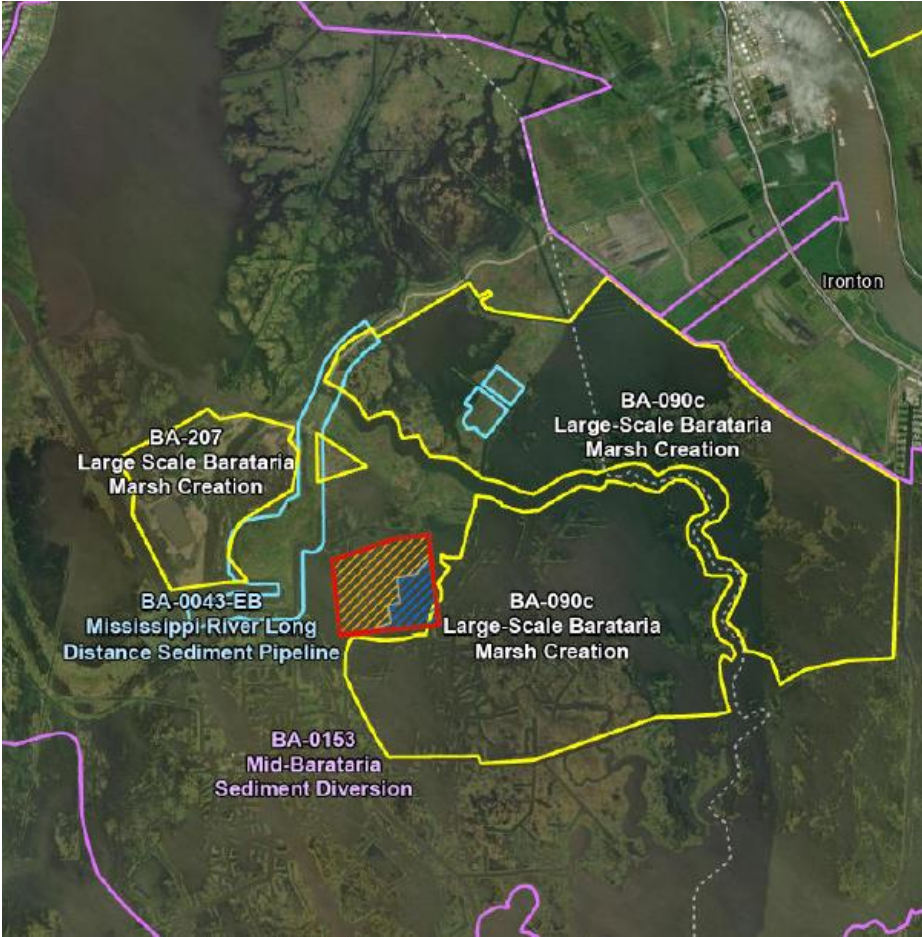


Image of marsh terraces project for Jefferson Parish



2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund Awards

Since NCRF's inception in 2018, Louisiana has won 29 awards, bringing \$49.9 million and leveraging \$14.2 million for a \$64.1 million benefit to our coast.

Designing Living Shoreline Protection for Caad Kuujaamnix/Bayou Sale in St. Mary Parish (LA)

Grantee: Wayti Services
Grant Amount:..... \$1,632,400
Matching Funds:..... \$0
Total Project Amount:..... \$1,632,400
Assess and design the Caad Kuujaamnix/Bayou Sale living shoreline, advancing the plans to 95 percent completion and finalizing permits. Project will reduce wave energy and erosion while benefiting wildlife and fisheries that are important to the Chitimacha Tribe such as black bear, shrimp, redfish and bass.

Finalizing Designs for the Creation and Rehabilitation of Marsh on Fifi Island (LA)

Grantee: Grand Isle Independent Levee District
Grant Amount:..... \$2,618,500
Matching Funds:..... \$0
Total Project Amount:..... \$2,618,500
Finalize designs and permits for marsh and shoreline restoration around Fifi Island to provide storm protection. Project will, when constructed, mitigate erosion, provide increased storm protection and improve resilience while enhancing bird habitat for hundreds of species including the least tern and seaside sparrow.



Preliminary design of Fifi Island marsh creation

2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund Awards

The RISEE Act proposes to direct 12.5% of offshore wind revenues to this grant program.

Port Fourchon Terracing and Living Shoreline Project - Phase II (LA)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited
Grant Amount:..... \$4,182,400
Matching Funds:..... \$400,000
Total Project Amount:..... \$4,582,400

Construct earthen marsh terraces and vegetative plantings to increase the resilience of surrounding critical infrastructure and facilities, vital transportation routes, natural resources and coastal communities adjacent to Port Fourchon in the lower Barataria Basin, Louisiana. Project will create 76,000 linear feet of emergent marsh habitat and protect existing marsh in the Port Fourchon area.

Building Capacity for Community Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration in Grand Caillou/Dulac (LA)

Grantee: Consensus Building Institute
Grant Amount:..... \$563,400
Matching Funds:..... \$40,000
Total Project Amount:..... \$603,400

Build community capacity for resilience planning to address threats from flooding, storms and erosion. The project will create a coastal resilience plan that establishes long-term community vision and goals, evaluates and communicates forecasted risk, maps community assets and prioritizes a suite of nature-based solutions to restore vital habitat.



Video of Ducks Unlimited terrace construction near Port Fourchon, August 1, 2024

Congress Passes Disaster Supplemental

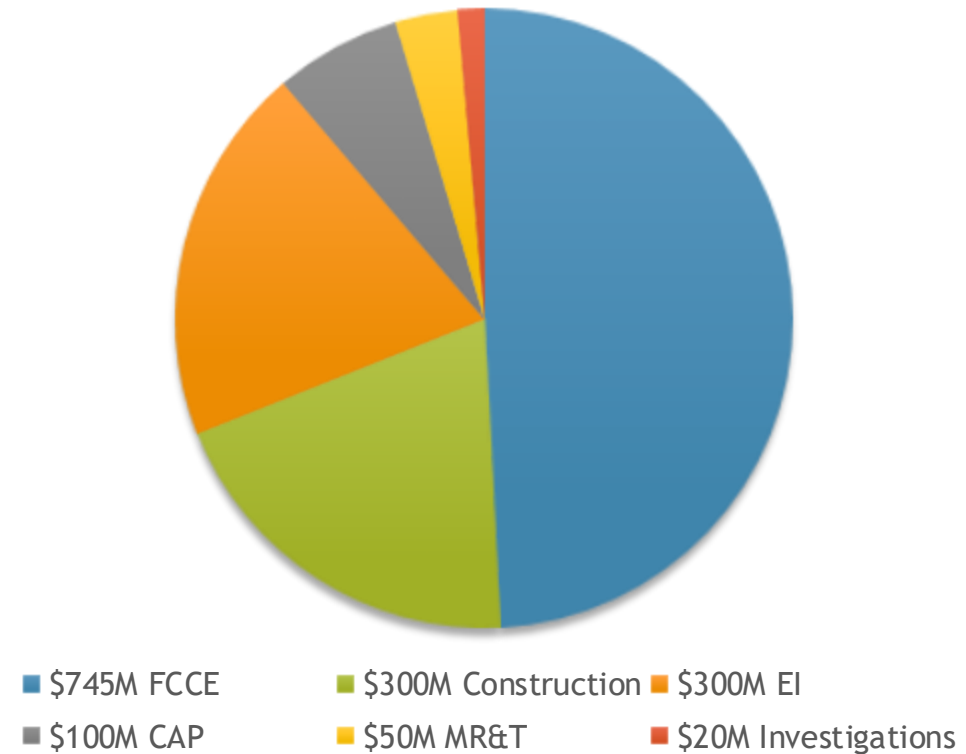
American Relief Act

Federal government funded through March 14, 2025 at FY24 funding levels.

Included \$110 billion Disaster Supplemental comprised of:

- \$39.5 billion for agriculture losses and repairing damages in national forests
- \$29 billion for FEMA disaster relief
- \$12 billion to HUD for Community Development Block Grants
- \$8.1 billion to Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief
- \$3.4 billion for Department of Defense
- \$3.7 billion to EPA for water infrastructure
- \$2.3 billion for National Park Service repairs
- \$2.2 billion to Small Business Administration
- \$1.8 billion for military construction and veterans infrastructure
- \$1.5 billion for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- \$1.5 billion for Economic Development Administration assistance
- \$1.43 million for NOAA repairs and fisheries disasters
- \$740 million to NASA for repairs
- \$500 million for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service repairs
- \$312 million for Coast Guard

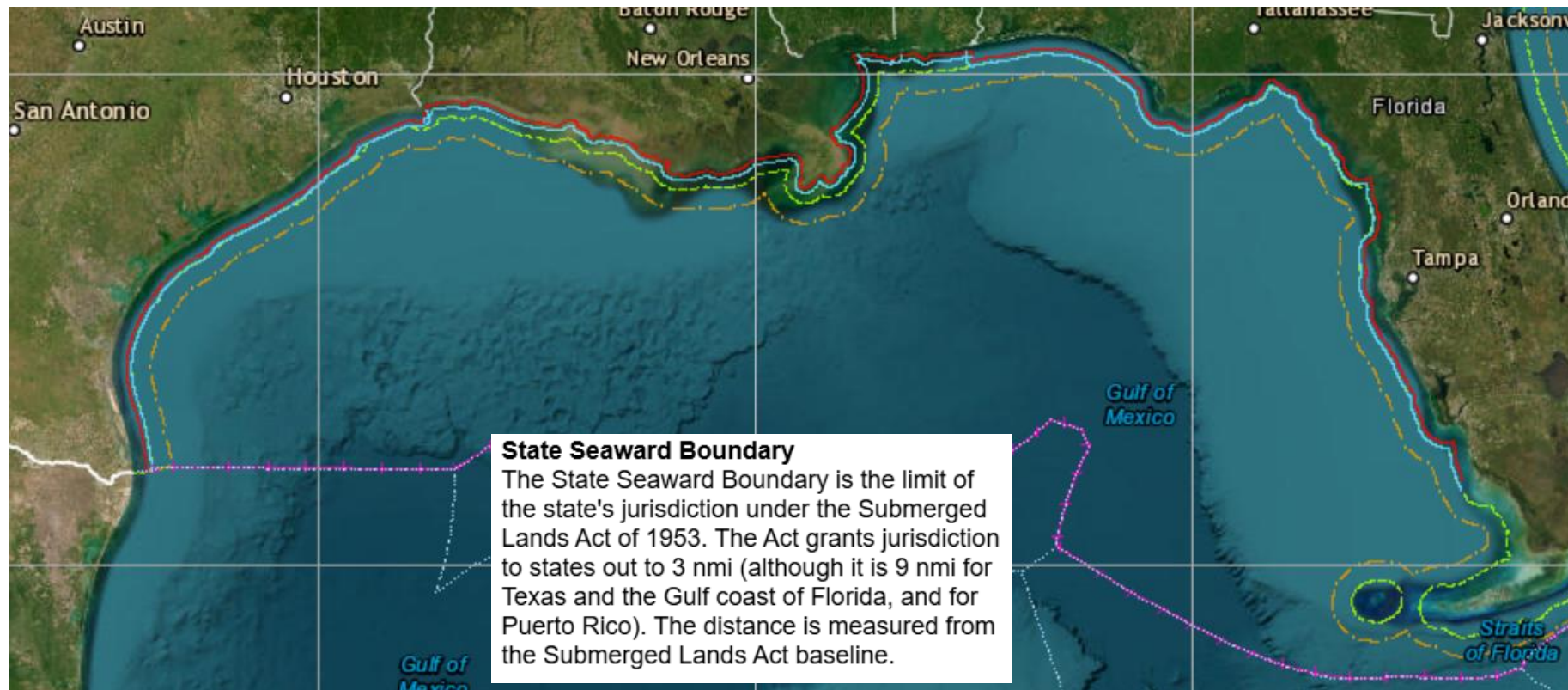
\$1.5B USACE Disaster Funding



Offshore Parity Act of 2024 Introduced

On November 22, 2024, Congressman Graves and Congressman Carter introduced a bill to extend the state waters of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama from one marine league (3 nautical miles) to three marine leagues (9 nautical miles) for energy and fisheries. Texas and Florida already have jurisdiction to 9 nautical miles.

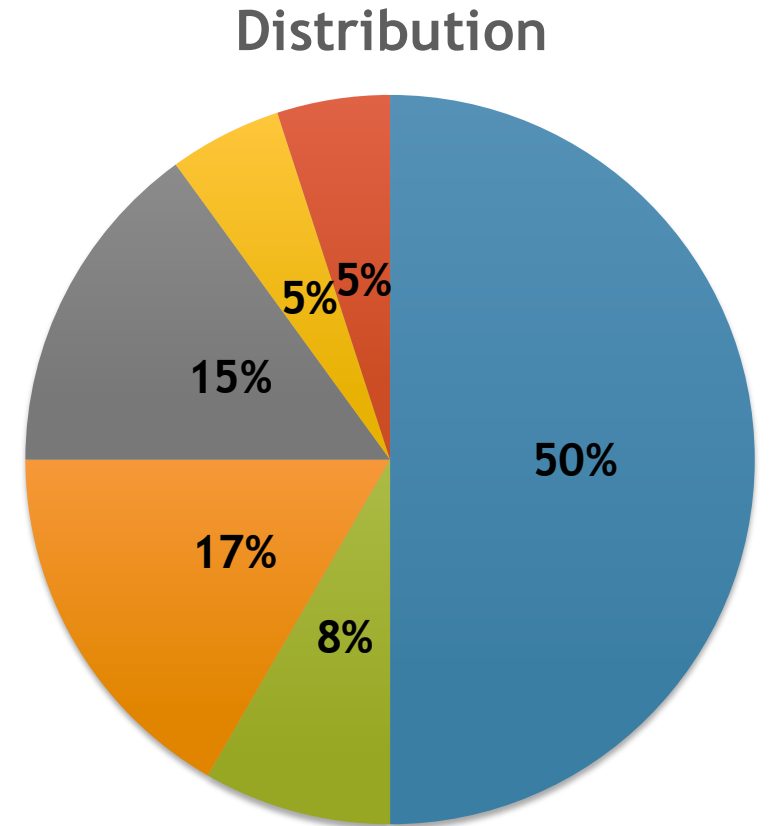
The Submerged Lands Act of 1953 and federal court rulings established this disparity. Louisiana challenged this issue all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled against the state in *U.S. vs Louisiana* in 1969, declaring that the state could not prove that it had jurisdiction to nine nautical miles before entering the Union. Therefore, Louisiana would have to accept its smaller boundary, similar to states on the east and west coasts.



Discussion Draft Released on New Revenue Sharing Bill



- The new House Natural Resources Ranking Member, Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA), released a discussion draft of the Resilience, Equity, and Sustainability Through Offshore Renewable Energy (RESTORE) Act.
- The RESTORE Act focuses on offshore renewable energy. It does not deal with offshore oil and gas.
- Seeks to focus revenue distribution to tribal entities and for fisheries science/climate research.
- Mimics GOMESA's 80% state, 20% coastal political subdivisions for state revenues - but only 16.6% of total goes to states via new funding stream, the "Coastal Conservation and Community Resilience Fund" (CCCRF).



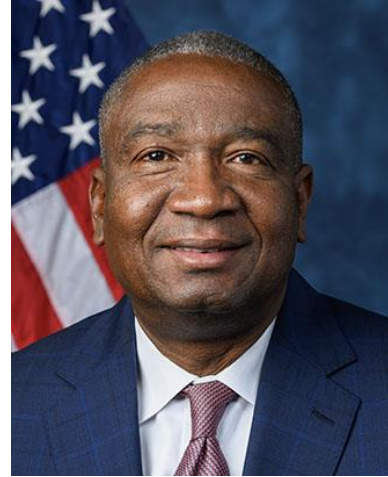
■ Treasury ■ NCRF ■ CCCRF ■ Tribes ■ LWCF ■ Research

[Submit public comment to Rep. Huffman on RESTORE](#)

New Louisiana Delegation Roles

Congressman Cleo Fields

- Joins Financial Services Committee
 - Jurisdiction over banking, housing, insurance, and securities & exchanges.



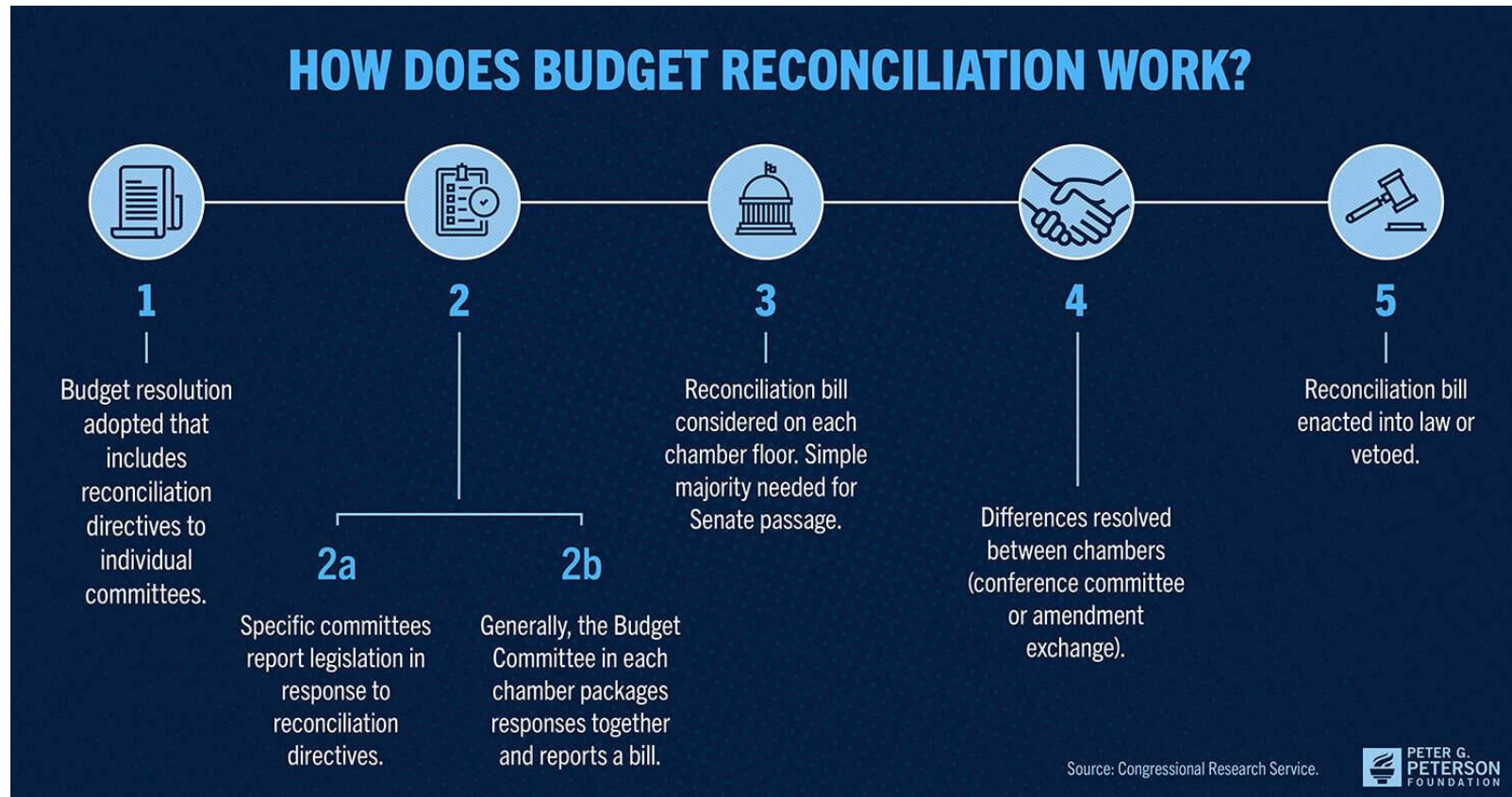
Congressman Troy Carter

- Joins Energy & Commerce Committee
 - Jurisdiction over telecom, consumer protection, health, environmental quality energy policy, and commerce
- Will likely depart Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- Joins House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee
- Selected as a House Democratic Deputy Whip
- Elected to Congressional Black Caucus First Vice-Chair



Republicans Look to Budget Reconciliation

- Budget reconciliation an optional procedure that can accompany a budget resolution, if instructions are made. The instructions lead to committee action that will result in the desired budgetary goal, allowing Congress to “reconcile” existing law with current priorities once a fiscal year.
- Budget reconciliation can avoid the Senate filibuster, making it an attractive way to implement funding priorities on a party line basis, particularly when Congress and the Presidency are led by the same party.



Opportunity for Revenue Sharing in Reconciliation

House Strategy

- “One big beautiful bill”
- All-inclusive legislation to address taxes, border, energy, and defense issues.

Q: Could revenue sharing be included?

A: Yes & No

GOMESA changes affect spending, so it could be addressed in reconciliation. In fact, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reconciliation bill included a temporary, limited increase of the GOMESA cap.

However, offshore wind revenue sharing constitutes a policy change, so that appears to be unable to be eligible for reconciliation.

Senate Strategy

- Two reconciliation bills in 2025
- First bill - border, energy, and defense
- Second bill - Tax policy

Q: Will revenue sharing be included?

A: TBD!

Pro Case: The House’s Lower Energy Costs Act is the starting point for reconciliation’s energy provisions. It included Leader Scalise’s BREEZE Act to increase GOMESA’s percentage, lift the cap, and end sequestration.

Con Case: Revenue sharing scores in a major way, and the offset previously identified is unavailable. Finding a way to pay for these improvements will be difficult.





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Questions?