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February 1, 2023

The Honorable U.S. Senator, Bill Cassidy, M.D.
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

On behalf of the people of Terrebonne Parish I wish to thank you for your efforts to work toward passage of the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act (RISEE Act) in the 117th Congress and your effort to reintroduce this significant legislation in the 118th Congress. If passed, this bill will increase OCS revenues to the Gulf Coast and provide coastal Louisiana parishes, including Terrebonne, with additional revenues for the restoration and preservation of our nationally critical coastal resources.

The four significant objectives of the RISEE Act address issues not only important to Louisiana, but to other states as well. Some of these objectives were no doubt crafted with the intention of securing support from other members of Congress, and we support these objectives. But more important to Louisiana at this time is the objective aimed at reform of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). As you know, only a small portion of OCS leases active since 2006 are eligible for revenue sharing with the Gulf states under GOMESA currently. The Gulf states and their political subdivisions receive on 37.5 % of such revenues, far short of the needed 50% of such federal revenues. In addition, the states receiving these funds are capped at a total of \$375 million of revenue sharing annually. As recently as 2021, this cap resulted in only less than 5% of these offshore mineral revenues shared with Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama. The RISEE Act also calls for the removal of the Land & Water Conservation Fund's state side cap of \$125 million. This should greatly benefit not only Louisiana, but non-coastal states that depend on such funding for their parks.

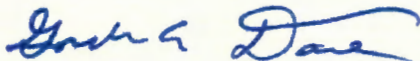
Obviously, Louisiana's critical coastal protection and restoration program needs more, not less, federal OCS mineral revenue sharing. It is largely along Louisiana's coast that the infrastructure which supports deep water drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf is located. Virtually the entire nation benefits from this. Therefore, legislation directing federal mineral revenues to be allocated automatically and annually to non-coastal related federal programs or other causes should not do so at the expense of Louisiana's coastal program, nor should such allocations limit the increased revenue sharing that Louisiana should receive under GOMESA.

The GOMESA revenue stream is a critical recurring source of funds that allows all Louisiana coastal parishes, including Terrebonne, to address our coastal restoration and protection needs. Please understand that Terrebonne Parish works closely with our great partner, the State of Louisiana, in addressing these needs, but funds from GOMESA that are allocated directly to the parish have allowed us to have more than a seat at the table when discussing future coastal restoration and preservation needs. These funds have allowed us to build needed coastal projects in a more timely manner.

Senator Cassidy, please know that we wholeheartedly support your efforts to move the RISEE Act through the 118th Congress. We believe that this bill introduces a measure of equity for the Gulf Coast States to a level that is comparable to the revenue sharing formula enjoyed by onshore mineral producing states. Please continue your fight for a fair share of OCS revenue dedicated to the Gulf Coast.

If I can be of assistance personally, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon E. Dove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

Gordon E. Dove
Parish President

Cc: Terrebonne Parish Council Members
Council Reading File