



## **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

*From the Office of Parish President Jaclyn Hotard*

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator for Louisiana  
520 Hart SOB  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

On behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish, I am pleased to support the GOMESA revenue sharing components of your proposed Reinvesting in America's Shoreline Economies & Ecosystems (RISEE) Act. This creative policy action is an outstanding opportunity to leverage offshore energy activities into protection and restoration for Louisiana's coast, and you have my full support.

St. John the Baptist Parish is intent on aligning with the goals of Louisiana's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast by protecting its residents through coastal preservation and restoration measures. The Parish is home to nearly 100 thousand acres of forested wetlands (71% of our total land area) that act as both a buffer to storm surge and a retention area for flood waters. The Parish has utilized its allocated GOMESA funds to contract the design and construction of a shoreline protection structure that will better preserve a vulnerable portion of these wetlands. I firmly believe that successful adoption of the RISEE Act will help St. John the Baptist Parish and its coastal neighbors better protect and preserve more natural resources in the future.

I strongly support the Reinvesting in America's Shoreline Economies & Ecosystems (RISEE) Act for increased protection of Louisiana's critical coastline. Please let me know if I can provide any additional support for this exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Hotard

Parish President

St. John the Baptist Parish