

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION COUNCIL SERIES NO: C-6194

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. LORINO

PROVIDED BY: COUNCIL OFFICE

RESOLUTION TO FULLY SUPPORT S. 2418 AND H.R. 3814, WHICH SEEK TO INCREASE GOMESA REVENUE SHARING WITH GULF COAST STATES TO A LEVEL THAT IS MORE ON PAR WITH THE REVENUE SHARING WITH ONSHORE MINERAL PRODUCTION STATES.

WHEREAS, many of the energy resources enjoyed by the entire United States are dependent upon the health of Gulf Coast ecosystems which provide access to those resources and related infrastructure and protection for communities that house its workforce; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is home to 30 percent of the nation's wetlands and 90 percent of its wetland loss, a crisis that impacts communities, ecosystems, and the very economic engines that contribute to the nation's energy security; and

WHEREAS, this impacted area is home to half the country's oil refineries and pipelines serving 90 percent of the nation's federal offshore energy production; and

WHEREAS, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, 50 percent of the mineral funds generated from federal lands onshore are shared with the host state to offset impacts of the federal mineral development - and there is no cap on the revenue shared with the host state; and

WHEREAS, only a small portion of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leases active since 2006 are eligible for GOMESA revenue sharing with the Gulf states, Gulf states and their coastal political subdivisions receive 37.5 percent, not 50%, of such federal revenue; and the four GOMESA states are capped at a total of \$ 375 million of revenue sharing annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, this resulted in only 4.97 percent of Gulf of Mexico offshore mineral revenues being shared with Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama combined; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's ambitious coastal protection and restoration program needs more, not less, federal OCS mineral revenue sharing; and

WHEREAS, legislation directing federal mineral revenues to be allocated automatically and annually to federal programs, such as national parks maintenance 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; and

WHEREAS, legislation directing federal mineral revenues to be allocated automatically and annually to federal programs, such as national parks maintenance 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; and

WHEREAS, S. 2418, Conservation of America's Shoreline Terrain and Aquatic Life (COASTAL) Act, introduced by Senators Cassidy and Murkowski and cosponsored by Senators Kennedy, Wicker, Jones, and Sullivan, would increase the revenue share to GOMESA states from 37.5 percent of GOMESA revenue to 50 percent of GOMESA revenue; expand GOMESA to cover additional Outer Continental Shelf leases; remove the \$ 375 million cap; provide new authorized uses of GOMESA revenue; and establish revenue sharing for Alaska; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 3814, Domestic Offshore Energy Reinvestment Act of 2019, introduced by Congressmen Richmond and Graves, would increase the revenue share to GOMESA states from 37.5 percent of GOMESA revenue to 50 percent of GOMESA revenue; remove the \$ 375 million cap; and provide new authorized uses of GOMESA revenue; and

WHEREAS, for Louisiana coastal parishes, the GOMESA revenue stream is a critical recurring source of revenue that allows us to address our coastal protection and restoration needs. The State of Louisiana has been a great partner in addressing some of our needs, but the funds that are allocated directly to the parishes have allowed us to have a seat at the table when discussing future coastal protection and restoration project.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY RESOLVES that the St. Tammany Parish Council hereby:

- 1. Thanks Senators Cassidy and Kennedy and Congressmen Richmond and Graves, for their leadership in the this critically important effort of achieving increased revenue sharing for Louisiana through GOMESA.
- 2. Objects strenuously to the allocation of federal mineral revenue to federal programs unless the allocation also increases the GOMESA revenue that is shared with Gulf coast states.
- 3. Fully supports S. 2418 and H.R. 3814, which seek to increase GOMESA revenue sharing with Gulf Coast States to a level that is more on par with the revenue sharing with onshore mineral production states.

THIS RESOLUTION HAVING BEEN SUBMITTED TO A VOTE, THE VOTE THEREON WAS AS FOLLOWS:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION BY: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED ADOPTED ON THE 5 DAY OF DECEMBER , 2019, AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, A QUORUM OF THE MEMBERS BEING PRESENT AND VOTING.

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MICHAEL R. LORINO, JR. , COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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THERESA L. FORD, COUNCIL CLERK