

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capital
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 8, 2024

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned groups, we are writing to express our strong support for offshore wind power as a uniquely valuable energy opportunity for America. This vast, domestic energy source holds unmatched potential for creating new jobs, economic development, pollution-free energy, and other community benefits along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts. We urge you to take action to advance policies that can both further the successful development of wind energy on the Outer Continental Shelf of the U.S. and maximize the many benefits of developing this critical clean energy for our states and communities.

Specifically, we support legislation to direct revenue generated through the federal leasing process for offshore wind toward investments in state and local coastal restoration, infrastructure, and community resiliency efforts. The Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act of 2023 (RISEE Act., S.373), led by Sens. Whitehouse and Cassidy with strong bipartisan support, offers an opportunity to accomplish this important revenue redirection. We respectfully request that you work with the sponsors and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to move it forward in the soonest available legislative vehicle.

Offshore wind development has the potential to create transformational benefits for communities across the country, including providing substantial new resources to protect, conserve, and support local environments and economies. Offshore wind lease sales conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to date have generated billions of dollars in federal revenue. With additional lease sales expected in the coming years, now is the time to secure policy reforms that will ensure a portion of these investments are directed toward efforts needed to support successful offshore wind development, enhance the resilience of our coastlines, and benefit local communities.

The RISEE Act would establish a mechanism for sharing offshore wind leasing revenue across multiple entities, including the U.S. Treasury, the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund, and coastal states impacted by offshore wind development. The bill enables investments in projects that directly address coastal restoration, hurricane protection, infrastructure improvements, and mitigation of environmental damage. RISEE retroactively applies to lease sales on or after January 1, 2022, creating an immediate and unmatched opportunity to drive substantial revenue to states along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico coasts (generated by the record-breaking New York Bight auction as well as recent Carolina Bay, California, and Gulf of Mexico lease sales).

At this pivotal moment in America's energy story, we urge you to work together with the Act's sponsors to expeditiously move RISEE forward. This common sense policy reform will support successful offshore wind development and the many benefits this domestic energy source can deliver for states and communities across the country, while ensuring coastal and marine resources are protected in the process. The RISEE Act offers a strategic step forward to accomplish these goals, and we stand ready to support you in moving this critical policy forward.

Sincerely,

Anne Reynolds, Vice President, Offshore Wind
American Clean Power Association

Nicole Elko, Executive Director
**American Shore & Beach Preservation
Association**

Ben Pendergrass, Vice President, Government
Affairs
Citizens' Climate Lobby

Heather Reams, President
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions

Mark Fleming, President & CEO
Conservatives for Clean Energy

Amanda Leland, Executive Director
Environmental Defense Fund

Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer
National Audubon Society

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Erik Milito, President
National Ocean Industries Association

Tom Cors, Senior Director for Legislative
Affairs
The Nature Conservancy

Janis Searles Jones, CEO
Ocean Conservancy

Tom Dillon, Senior Vice President
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Liz Burdock, President & CEO
Oceantic Network

Christy Plumer, Chief Conservation Officer
**Theodore Roosevelt Conservation
Partnership**

Myke Bybee, Senior Director of Federal
Relations
Trust for Public Land

Stephanie McClellan, Executive Director
Turn Forward

CC:

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr., The President of the United States

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House

The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Leader

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, House Democratic Leader

The Honorable Tom Emmer, House Majority Whip

The Honorable Katherine Clark, House Democratic Whip