



# RESTORE Act

## **Resilience, Equity, and Sustainability Through Offshore Renewable Energy (RESTORE) Act Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA) Summary**

### **Background**

The transition to offshore renewable energy is a critical step in addressing climate change and promoting clean energy solutions to create a sustainable future for tribal and coastal communities. These communities are increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, intensifying storms, and habitat loss. To build the resilience necessary to combat these compounding issues, it is essential to reinvest in coastal infrastructure, enhance habitat conservation, and promote collaborative efforts that address both environmental and socio-economic challenges.

While tribal nations equally share in the repercussions of this, they have largely been excluded from meaningful engagement in these projects, leading to adverse impacts on their cultural resources, lands, and economic opportunities. Historically and to this very day, tribes have faced systemic injustices in infrastructure development, resulting in chronic underfunding and limited capacity to participate in and benefit from clean energy development. Despite their deep knowledge and stewardship of natural resources, tribes face significant barriers to accessing funds and realizing economic opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

The RESTORE Act seeks to address these disparities by establishing a revenue-sharing mechanism that ensures both tribal and coastal communities are not only included but also economically benefit from offshore renewable energy development. By reinvesting funds into habitat conservation, climate resilience, and economic development for these communities, the bill provides critical resources to mitigate project impacts, bolster resilience, and support meaningful participation in the clean energy transition. This framework recognizes that a just transition must account for potential adverse effects on coastal ecosystems, tribal lands, and cultural resources, offering mitigation pathways when needed and ensuring equitable benefits for all impacted communities.

While this discussion draft is a significant step forward, it is not a comprehensive solution to the historical and systemic challenges tribes have faced in the clean energy transition, specifically offshore wind. It must be viewed as part of a broader effort to rectify systemic inequities. A truly sustainable and equitable clean energy future requires continued commitments to addressing historical injustices, uplifting tribal sovereignty, fostering meaningful engagement, and empowering both coastal and tribal communities to thrive economically in the clean energy economy.

### **Bill Overview**

*Revenue Distribution:* Offshore renewable energy revenue is allocated to the Treasury, the Coastal Conservation and Community Resilience Fund, tribes for economic development and mitigation, the National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for fisheries and scientific research grants.

*Coastal Conservation and Community Resilience Fund:* Directs revenue to support coastal communities in preparing for and responding to environmental threats, including climate change, sea-level rise, and habitat loss. Funds are allocated based on shoreline length, population, renewable energy production, and more. Eligible uses include natural infrastructure projects, habitat restoration, job training, pollution reduction, and resilience

planning. The fund promotes collaboration with tribes and incorporates indigenous knowledge to foster equitable and inclusive solutions.

*Mitigation and Economic Development for Tribes:* Seeks to rectify historical injustices and promote energy sovereignty by providing funding for tribes to mitigate impacts and ultimately benefit from the economic development of offshore renewable energy projects.

*Fisheries and Scientific Research:* Provides funding for grants to academic institutions, NGOs, state, tribal, and local governments to conduct surveys, data collection, and research for the management of fisheries, protected species, habitats, ecosystems, and overall ocean conditions. Also supports the fishing industry through targeted research to better understand and manage interactions between marine ecosystems and energy projects.

The RESTORE Act is supported by the Blue Lake Rancheria, Penobscot Nation, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Natural Resources Defense Council, Center for Biological Diversity, National Ocean Protection Coalition, and Southern Environmental Law Center.