

# RESTORE Act

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

### Section. 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

### Section. 2. Findings.

**Section. 3. Disposition of Qualified Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing Revenue.** Establishes how the revenue from leasing offshore areas for renewable energy projects is to be distributed. Specifically, qualified revenue will be allocated in the following manner:

- 50 percent to the general Treasury fund;
- 25 percent to coastal communities through the National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF) (1/3 for the Fund as normal and 2/3 for a new Coastal Conservation and Community Resilience Fund);
- 15 percent to eligible Indian Tribes for mitigation and economic development;
- 5 percent to the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and
- 5 percent to the NOCSF in the form of grants to State and local governments, Indian Tribes, NGOs, and academic institutions for surveys, data collection, and research to address conservation and management of fisheries, federally protected species, habitats, and ecosystem management related to offshore renewable energy projects.

**Section. 4. Updates to National Oceans and Coastal Security Act.** Establishes a new Coastal Conservation and Community Resilience Fund, supported by deposits from offshore renewable energy leasing revenues. Allocates funds to coastal states based on coastline length, population, offshore renewable energy production, offshore renewable energy goals, and other factors. Requires 20 percent of the funds allocated to coastal states to be distributed to coastal political subdivisions, using a formula based on population, coastline length, and proximity to offshore renewable energy projects. Adjusts allocations to ensure equitable distribution, with no state receiving less than one percent of total annual funds. Clarifies that funds can be used for scientific research, resilience projects, habitat protection and restoration, cooperative fisheries research analysis, incorporating Indigenous knowledge and tribal perspectives, and other specified purposes. Encourages collaboration with Indian Tribes in project planning and implementation.

Revises purpose and uses of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund (NOCSF) for grants administered by NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Broadens the definition of Indian Tribe for purposes of the program. Clarifies sources of funding, including amounts from offshore renewable energy and other appropriations. Revises the process and procedures for awarding state and national grants under the program by:

- Limiting state grants to 80 percent and national grants to 20 percent of annual funding;
- Requiring at least 30 percent of state grants to benefit disadvantaged communities;
- Ensuring \$150 million of the funds must go towards state grants and \$50 million of the funds must go towards national grants, \$5 million of which must go to tribes and Indigenous communities;
- Suspending state grants if available funds fall below \$200 million in a fiscal year.

Broadens the activities eligible for funding through the NOCSF to include:

- Protection, conservation, and restoration of ocean and coastal resources and infrastructure;
- Planning for and management of coastal development;
- Improving understanding of changing threats to the ocean and coasts;
- Enhancing the resiliency of coastal infrastructure;
- Acquiring property in support of the purposes of the program;
- Programs to enhance community access to coastal and ocean resources.

Requires the program's annual report to Congress to include blue carbon benefits of the program. Authorizes the program at \$200 million per year for each fiscal year 2025-2029.

**Section. 5. Mitigation and Economic Development for Eligible Tribes.** Requires the Interior Department to establish a task force to develop a funding allocation formula for dispersing funds to eligible Indian Tribes, including those impacted by offshore renewable energy development projects. Specifies that at least two-thirds of members must be recommended by Indian Tribes.

**Section. 6. Report to Congress.** Requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to jointly submit a report to Congress on the implementation of the Act after consulting with offshore renewable energy stakeholders, including Indian Tribes, within three years of enactment.

**Section. 7. Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund.** Amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add an allowable use to the Fisheries Conservation and Management Fund for researching the potential effects of offshore renewable energy development on federal fisheries and ocean conditions.

**Section. 8. Definitions.**