



Support the Combined RESTORE/LWCF Amendment **RESTORE Act Ensures BP Penalties are Used for Restoration**

The Senate has the opportunity today to pass the RESTORE Act and ensure that oil spill fines paid by BP and others are invested in restoration of the Gulf—not in unrelated federal spending. The amendment is fully offset. The economies and ecosystems of the Gulf region are depending on this amendment to the Transportation Bill to help make them strong again. Congress cannot wait any longer to do the right thing for the Gulf.

The RESTORE Act amendment is paired with the Land and Water, Conservation Fund (LWCF) — a critical program that protects land, water and recreation areas for all Americans, without using taxpayer dollars.

RESTORE Act

- **The damage from the BP oil spill was done in the Gulf, so Congress should ensure that oil spill fines go to the Gulf. Passing the RESTORE Act is the fair and right thing to do.**
 - Using the oil spill penalties to restore the Gulf region’s communities, environment and economy is the fair and right thing to do.
- **By passing the RESTORE Act, Congress can ensure that fines collected from BP and other responsible parties for the spill go to the Gulf where they belong – instead of being used for unrelated federal spending.**
 - [Bipartisan polling](#) shows that 83 percent of voters nationwide support efforts to dedicate the BP oil spill penalties to restoration of the Gulf ecosystem.
 - The poll also showed that support for restoration is strong across party lines. Those who support funding restoration include 90 percent of Democrats; 84 percent of independents; 76 percent of Republicans; and 78 percent of Tea Party supporters.
- **The Gulf region and its environment support some of this country’s most vital industries.**
 - [Duke University released a study](#) in December showing that the RESTORE Act could create jobs that would benefit at least 140 businesses across the country with nearly 400 employee locations in 37 states.

- The Gulf produces roughly 40 percent of all the seafood in the contiguous 48 states. ([National Marine Fisheries Service](#))
 - The region is home to 10 of our nation's 15 largest ports by tonnage. More than 25 percent of the nation's waterborne exports pass through Louisiana ports alone. ([American Association of Port Authorities](#))
- **Strengthening the environment of the Gulf region will make it stronger and more resilient so it will continue to be the backbone of our nation's economy and a safe home to the communities that make it a national treasure.**
- By passing the RESTORE amendment, vital research funding will be provided that will support important ocean and coastal research and related science education both in the Gulf and elsewhere via the competitive merit-based process.

RESTORE Act & LWCF

- **The RESTORE Amendment is paired with the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a critical program that protects land, water and recreation areas for all Americans, without using taxpayer dollars.**
- LWCF protects iconic parks, forests, wildlife areas, Civil War battlefields and other key sites across the nation.
 - LWCF supports landowners who want to sell their property for conservation purposes and farmers, ranchers and foresters who want to continue to work the land for the future.
 - The outdoor recreation economy that relies on LWCF and the land it protects accounts for \$730 billion in economic activity each year and supports over 6.5 million jobs across America, according to the Outdoor Industry Foundation.
 - A [national 2011 survey](#) of voters to gauge their support for the LWCF showed near-unanimous voter support for continuing to dedicate a portion of the revenue from oil and gas drilling fees to the LWCF – support that cuts across party and demographic lines. Nearly nine in ten voters indicated that they thought oil and gas fee revenue should continue to be used for the LWCF, with three-quarters of voters indicating “strong” support for the LWCF.

Pass the RESTORE/LWCF Amendment – for our Environment, Communities and Economies.