

# Ocean Climate Action Legislative Priorities

Top Priority (House): [Co-sponsor the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act](#)

Top Priority (Senate): [Introduce the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act](#)

## 1. Expand the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)

- ❖ Since 1982 CBRA has enjoyed strong *bipartisan support*.
- ❖ CBRA protects some of the nation's most sensitive natural coastal zones that are crucial for climate resilience, *saving billions* by reducing storm damage costs.
- ❖ CBRA discourages coastal development in both sensitive coastal and Great Lakes regions and this protection needs to be expanded to all of the US and its territories; *too many vulnerable communities are being frequently displaced*.

## 2. Increase Federal Lease Area for Offshore Wind Development & Invest in Transmission

- ❖ For too long, offshore oil and refineries, have created desperate situations for vulnerable communities. *We need a just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy*.
- ❖ *Huge economic opportunities will be created by the rapid acceleration of offshore wind, including tens of thousands* of clean, well-paying jobs to allow workers in offshore oil and gas, oil pipeline construction, and the coal industry to migrate to clean green/blue energy careers.
- ❖ Dependable offshore winds have vast untapped potential to *make our electric power more reliable*, tapping directly into local and national power grids, *including in the Great Lakes regions*.
- ❖ Offshore wind *does not* require the pipelines, tankers, and other polluting infrastructure required by fossil fuel-burning power plants.
- ❖ Electricity from offshore wind farms is *rapidly falling in price* and this will only accelerate as the industry scales up, saving consumers and other rate-payers billions.
- ❖ Wind power's liabilities *pale in comparison* to climate catastrophes from continuing to burn fossil fuels. The *human health benefits from clean air when we stop burning fossil fuels* are also huge.
- ❖ Unlike offshore fossil fuel operations, which require equipment, infrastructure, and assets only possible for the largest corporations, wind generation can be scaled to the investment, opening *opportunities for smaller businesses*, as well as large U.S. manufacturing firms.

## 3. Invest at Least \$10 Billion in Coastal Restoration to Promote Resilient Coasts

- ❖ *Living shorelines protect coastal communities and are good for the environment*. Ecological methods (or in some cases hybrid green-grey methods) are less expensive and more resilient than engineered strategies of seawalls, groynes, and revetments; they improve water quality, provide fisheries habitat, increase biodiversity, provide parks and recreation, and can sequester carbon at four times the rate of land-based ecosystems.
- ❖ *We need effective sea level rise adaptation strategies*. Without them coastal communities will suffer unprecedented and increasing impacts to their economies and shoreline environments, with poorer residents hurt the most.
- ❖ *Investment in living shorelines is good for the economy*. Planning and constructing living shoreline projects will provide tens of thousands of both entry level and professional jobs in the service of our coastal environments. A [2015 study](#) found that the U.S. "restoration economy" generated approximately 221,000 jobs and \$24.86 billion in one year.
- ❖ These investments will provide jobs for many young people, with the opportunity to develop skills and earn a paycheck in the spirit of FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps, offering *equal opportunities* to women, people of color, and other historically underrepresented populations.
- ❖ There are at least *\$10 billion* in coastal resilience and restoration projects throughout the country, inland and coastal, poised to put people back to work supporting local communities and restoring coastal and riverine environments.
- ❖ Living shorelines include (but are not limited to):
  - *Restoration of salt marshes, mangroves, and seagrass* to absorb wave energy and enhance coastal ecology.
  - *Dune restoration* and other sand management strategies that offer "softer" shoreline protection that mitigate erosion and provide critical habitat.