Ocean Climate Action Legislative Priorities

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.