

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2024

Ms. Meg Bankston
Executive Director
Parishes Advocating for Coastal Endurance (PACE)
1951 Hood Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Ms. Bankston,

Thank you for appearing before the Committee on Natural Resources at an oversight field hearing on Friday, August 2, 2024 titled "*Rigs to Restoration: Examining Gulf Coast Restoration through Energy Production and Permitting.*"

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Committee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Committee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Jacob Greenberg, Clerk, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov by August 22, 2024. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Chairman

**Committee on Natural Resources
Oversight Field Hearing
Nicholls State University
906 E 1st St.
Thibodaux, Louisiana
August 2, 2024
1:00PM (CDT)**

"Rigs to Restoration: Examining Gulf Coast Restoration through Energy Production and Permitting."

Questions from Rep. Graves for Ms. Meg Bankston, Executive Director, Parishes Advocating for Coastal Endurance (PACE), Baton Rouge, LA

1. Can you explain how Louisiana would benefit from removing the cap on GOMESA revenue?
2. As a representative of the 20 coastal parishes, how do parishes view the offshore energy industry? Does this impact some of the restoration initiatives parishes are currently working on?
3. An additional source of revenue the coastal parishes receive comes from settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, what barriers exist for parishes trying to access these dollars? How is it different from GOMESA revenue?
4. What actions have the parishes taken to get coastal restoration projects funded in the face of federal government inaction or bureaucracy?