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Interior Disburses \$31.7 Million to Mississippi in FY18 Energy Revenues

GOMESA Phase-II disbursements will fund important coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane protection projects

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary David Bernhardt announced that the Department will disburse more than \$31.7 million to Mississippi and its coastal political subdivisions (CPS) on April 26, 2019. This represents the second disbursement under Phase II of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA). The funds are derived from qualified oil and gas leasing revenues on the Outer Continental Shelf, and disbursed in accordance with the revenue-sharing provisions of the GOMESA legislation.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, Interior continues to deliver on the promise of advancing American energy security and economic prosperity,” **said Secretary Bernhardt**. “These disbursements shared directly with the Gulf producing states and local communities are a direct result of the responsible development of our energy resources.”

“These funds will continue our efforts of years past to protect and enhance our beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast,” **said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant**. “This latest disbursement of revenue generated by offshore energy exploration, as part of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, will initiate projects that continue to grow our blue economy. I appreciate our Mississippi congressional delegation for their hard work in securing this funding.”

“Mississippi plays a critical role in meeting our nation’s energy needs,” **said Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker**. “This funding will ensure that the Gulf of Mexico’s energy revenue will be reinvested in our communities through conservation and restoration programs, enhancing our state’s natural resources.”

“The revenue generated from the oil and gas leases throughout the Gulf of Mexico play an extremely important role in protecting our Mississippi coastline,” **said Congressman Steven Palazzo (MS-04)**. “I am glad to know that the legislation we worked to pass last Congress is already at work and ensuring that states receive higher portions of revenue from these leases. I am grateful for the Department’s efforts to see these GOMESA funds reach our state and fuel Mississippi’s blue economy.”

During FY 2018, Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursed approximately \$76 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and \$309 million to the U.S. Treasury from bonuses, rentals, and royalties paid for GOMESA leases. As required by the legislation, disbursements to LWCF and Treasury are made in the same year of receipt; disbursements to the states and CPS are made the year following the year of receipt.

Revenue-sharing allocations and disbursement detail for the FY 2018 receipts will be published April 25, 2019, on the Department's website at: <https://revenue.data.doi.gov/how-it-works/gomesa>.

The following amounts will be shared with Mississippi and its subdivisions in FY 2019:

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| State of Mississippi | \$25,379,084.76 |
| Hancock County | \$1,188,862.91 |
| Harrison County | \$2,470,050.41 |
| Jackson County | \$2,685,857.87 |
| Total | \$31,723,855.95 |

GOMESA payments are subject to sequestration requirements under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue manages and ensures full payment of revenues owed for the development of the nation's energy and natural resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and onshore Federal and Indian lands. In performing this important fiduciary role, ONRR collects an average of over \$10 billion dollars in annual revenue -- one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue.