



PEP Supports

S. 1400, *RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act of 2011*

Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) strongly supports U.S. Senate bill, S. 1400, *RESTORE the Gulf Coast Act of 2011*. Introduced by Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) and co-sponsored by most Gulf Coast Senators, S.1400 is critical to the region's successful long-term recovery from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Current law mandates that the significant fines expected to be levied against BP and any other responsible entities go to the Federal Treasury leaving the impacted states' recovery financially stranded. The Gulf Coast communities, already environmentally and economically wounded, will have to bear the costly burden of economic and ecosystem recovery and restoration. S. 1400 corrects this injustice by redirecting 80% of the fines to the Gulf Coast states damaged by the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history.

S. 1400 will:

- Establish the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund made up of the 80% of the Clean Water Act fines levied in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for ecosystem and economic recovery and restoration projects. This is in line with the recommendations of the Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force, chaired by Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, and the National Oil Spill Commission's 2011 report on the BP spill.
- Establish a Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council and a Comprehensive Plan for the Gulf Coast
- Establish a Longterm Science and Fisheries Endowment and Gulf Coast Centers of Excellence
- Provide flexibility for Gulf States to determine the strategies and projects that will best improve the long-term resiliency of their individual economies and ecosystems.

PEP encourages the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee to increase the percentage of fines that Alabama will receive in recognition as one of the states that has had and continues to have a substantial economic impact from the spill.

"A Clean Environment is Good for Business"

754 Downtowner Loop West • Mobile, Alabama 36609 • 251.345.7269 Fax 251.342.5575 •
www.pepmobile.org

Alabama's portion of the fines can fund the key environmental and economic and restoration projects needed to protect and enhance our unique Alabama coastal treasures and strengthen community resiliency to future disasters.

PEP salutes Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions for their leadership in sponsoring this bill that will help restore and protect our coastal resources while putting our people back to work and back on the beaches – for decades to come.

PEP is local non-profit business association of 180 industrial-related companies, employing more than 11,000 South Alabama citizens. PEP members work together to support sustainable economic development and stewardship of the environment. PEP members believe that "A Clean Environment is Good for Business."