



Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act (H.R. 6841) Talking Points

Ask:

- Cosponsor the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act (H.R. 6841).

CZMA Background:

- For 50 years, the coastal States, Territories, and Commonwealths have effectively tackled the nation's most pressing and emergent coastal issues through the programs authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).
- Coastal zone management is critical to balancing the ever more complicated demands on coastal resources—from residential and industrial development, to offshore energy, to tourism and recreation, to the need for conservation and restoration. These demands are further amplified by emerging issues including sea level rise, increased coastal storm frequency, coastal erosion and flooding, and other coastal hazards which threaten the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. Today, the role of the State and Territory CZM Programs and National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) in addressing these issues has never been more important.

Need for Reauthorization and Updates to the CZMA:

- While Congress has demonstrated its strong support for the CZMA, the CZM Programs, and the NERRS through appropriations for the Coastal Management Grants, NERRS, and the Coastal Zone Management and Services budget lines, the CZMA has not been authorized since 1999. *A CZMA reauthorization is well overdue.*
- Modernizing and reauthorizing the CZMA will help position the nation to meet current climate related coastal challenges.
- NERRS and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Programs (CELCP) play an important role in implementing the CZMA. CSO supports the reauthorization of these two critical components of the CZMA through the Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act.

What does the bill do:

- The Resilient Coasts and Estuaries Act reauthorizes two components of the CZMA, CELCP and the NERRS.
- A reauthorization of CELCP would reinvigorate this program, which enables states, local communities and, under this reauthorization NGOs, to acquire, restore, and protect coastal and estuarine areas and expands this effort to include restoring developed areas to natural states. The program has not received appropriations for more than a decade, but thanks to funding from IIJA for land acquisition there is renewed interest in CELCP.
- A reauthorization of NERRS codifies national and site level components of the NERRS Program including the Margaret Davidson Fellowship, system wide monitoring program, coastal training programs, collaborative research initiatives, and place-based education. A reauthorization would also authorize geographic and programmatic expansion of the system.

Final thoughts:

- NERRS and CELCP are only two parts of the CZMA, and while a reauthorization of these two programs would have place-based conservation, research, and educational benefits, it is critical that these programs work in tandem with fully-resourced state-led CZM Programs to ensure effective coastal management.

Current House Sponsors: *Reps. Levin (D-CA), Mast (R-FL)*, Bonamici (D-OR), Carter (R-GA), González-Colón (R-PR), Huffman (D-CA), Kiggans (R-VA), Kilmer (D-WA), Moylan (R-GU), Mullin (D-CA), Panetta (D-CA), Van Drew (R-NJ)