

WASHINGTON – The RESTORE Act has cleared a major hurdle today as House and Senate negotiators have finally agreed on provisions of a new transportation bill, which included a compromise version of the RESTORE Act, U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, said Wednesday. The new transportation authorization package will face a final vote in the House and Senate this week.

"After a full year of hard work by Gulf Coast lawmakers, the RESTORE Act is finally on a path to passage," said Congressman Bonner. "Last year, I joined fellow Members of Congress from the five Gulf Coast states in introducing legislation, known as the RESTORE ACT, to direct 80 percent of the Clean Water Act fines levied against those responsible for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to a newly-created Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund.

"This spring, both the House and Senate incorporated versions of the RESTORE Act in their federal transportation legislation, however a final agreement on the transportation bill has remained elusive until now.

"Throughout the negotiations over the new transportation bill, House and Senate leaders have worked closely with Gulf Coast lawmakers to retain the RESTORE provisions and ensure the five Gulf States and the affected communities will have the most flexibility in spending these resources for environmental and economic projects with the least federal interference.

"With a June 30th deadline to pass a new transportation bill looming, the House and Senate finally have a transportation bill they can agree upon and, more importantly, the Gulf Coast States' long wait for RESTORE Act funding has moved one step closer to reality."

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