

Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition Fly-in
Washington, D.C.
September 9-11, 2025

1-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition Federal Priorities

The Gulf Coast is one of America's most economically vital regions, driving growth through trade, energy, shipbuilding, fisheries, and tourism. Yet, the communities that make up the I-10 Corridor face increasing challenges that threaten both local resilience and the nation's competitiveness. The 1-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition is working together to ensure that federal policy supports long-term prosperity and security for the people and businesses of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Flood Insurance: One of the most pressing challenges is the rising cost of flood insurance. Rates under FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 are skyrocketing, with dramatic variability at the county and ZIP code level. Homeowners and small businesses are facing premiums that threaten affordability and growth across the region. A major concern is the lack of transparency in how rates are set and how elevation maps and floodplain data are factored into pricing. In many cases, outdated or inconsistent mapping contributes to higher premiums that do not reflect actual risk. Congress must push for clear methodologies, consistent use of elevation data, and reforms that ensure NFIP remains affordable and reliable.

Disaster Response and Recovery: Equally urgent is the need to accelerate FEMA assistance. In major disasters, there is a harmful gap between FEMA's housing mission and the availability of HUD's long-term Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. Families are often forced out of FEMA housing after 18 months, yet CDBG-DR funding is never available quickly enough to fill that void. This gap is catastrophic for thousands of families and can only be resolved through congressional action. A similar problem exists with FEMA's Public Assistance program: communities receive a Project Worksheet, but FEMA's assessment and valuation process can drag on for years—sometimes even a decade, as seen with Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Laura, and Delta. Streamlining and reforming these processes is critical to helping Gulf Coast communities recover faster and more equitably.

Coastal Protection and Resilience: Without federal investment in shoreline stabilization, wetlands restoration, and storm protection systems, the region faces a looming "coastal fiscal cliff." The RISEE and BREEZE Acts are essential steps toward securing sustainable funding, while the Army Corps' forthcoming rule-making and the appropriation for the Comprehensive Study of the Lower Mississippi River will be key to long-term planning. Federal resources must be committed at scale to protect the Gulf Coast's people, infrastructure, and economy.

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Fisheries and Marine Economy: A multi-state effort successfully advanced red snapper reforms, but similar attention is urgently needed for other species like amberjack and cobia. Current restrictions are overly severe, hurting the charter boat industry and recreational fishing communities that are economic lifelines for many Gulf Coast towns. Science-based fishery management must balance conservation with sustainability and economic opportunity.

Public Safety: This issue must be elevated as a federal priority in the Gulf Coast. Communities face increasing risks from hurricanes and industrial hazards, but also from violent crime and gang activity. Federal agencies should play a more visible role through multi-agency task forces, stronger involvement by U.S. Attorneys and federal courts, and staffing decisions that reflect homicide and violence rates, not just population size. Federal action on port security, emergency response, and crime reduction will safeguard families, strengthen investor confidence, and protect regional stability.

By the Numbers

- **15 million+ residents** live along the I-10 Gulf Coast Corridor.
- **\$5+ trillion in goods** move through Gulf Coast ports annually.
- **40% of U.S. energy** is produced or transported through the Gulf region.
- **1.5 million jobs** are tied to maritime, manufacturing, and fisheries.
- **Billions in annual disaster costs** from hurricanes and flooding impact Gulf Coast communities.

The I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition urges Congress to address these challenges with policies and funding that ensure resilience, affordability, and security. Protecting the Gulf Coast means protecting America's economy.