

Calendar No. 258105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1079****[Report No. 105-139]**

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 1997

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

NOVEMBER 5, 1997

Reported by Mr. CAMPBELL, with an amendment and an amendment to the
title

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. LEASES OF ALLOTTED LANDS OF THE FORT**
4 **BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF THE INTE-
7 RIOR.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
9 other provision of law (including the Act of
10 March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25
11 U.S.C. 396) and the regulations issued under
12 that Act), the Secretary of the Interior or a
13 designee of the Secretary may approve mineral
14 leases of an allotment described in paragraph
15 (2) in any case in which the Indian owners of
16 that allotment have executed leases to more
17 than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that al-
18 lotment.

19 (B) BENEFITS OF LEASES.—At such time
20 as mineral leases on an allotment have been ap-
21 proved for all Indian ownership interests pursu-
22 ant to this section, all Indian owners of the al-
23 lotment shall be entitled to the benefits of the
24 leases.

1 (2) *EFFECT OF APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF*
2 *THE INTERIOR.*—

3 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may ap-*
4 *prove any mineral lease or agreement that affects*
5 *individually owned Indian land, if—*

6 (i) *the owners of a majority of the un-*
7 *divided interest in the Indian land that is*
8 *the subject of the mineral lease or agreement*
9 *(including any interest covered by a lease or*
10 *agreement executed by the Secretary under*
11 *paragraph (3)) consent to the lease or agree-*
12 *ment; and*

13 (ii) *the Secretary determines that ap-*
14 *proving the lease or agreement is in the best*
15 *interest of the Indian owners of the Indian*
16 *land.*

17 (B) *EFFECT OF APPROVAL.*—*Upon the ap-*
18 *proval by the Secretary under subparagraph (A),*
19 *the lease or agreement shall be binding, to the*
20 *same extent as if all of the Indian owners of the*
21 *Indian land involved had consented to the lease*
22 *or agreement, upon—*

23 (i) *all owners of the undivided interest*
24 *in the Indian land subject to the lease or*

1 *agreement (including any interest owned by*
2 *an Indian tribe); and*

3 (ii) *all other parties to the lease or*
4 *agreement.*

5 (C) *DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS.—The*
6 *proceeds derived from a lease or agreement that*
7 *is approved by the Secretary under subpara-*
8 *graph (A) shall be distributed to all owners of*
9 *the Indian land that is subject to the lease or*
10 *agreement in accordance with the interest owned*
11 *by each such owner.*

12 (3) *EXECUTION OF LEASE OR AGREEMENT BY*
13 *SECRETARY.—The Secretary may execute a mineral*
14 *lease or agreement that affects individually owned In-*
15 *dian land on behalf of an Indian owner if—*

16 (A) *that owner is deceased and the heirs to,*
17 *or devisees of, the interest of the deceased owner*
18 *have not been determined; or*

19 (B) *the heirs or devisees referred to in sub-*
20 *paragraph (A) have been determined, but 1 or*
21 *more of the heirs or devisees cannot be located.*

22 (4) *PUBLIC AUCTION OR ADVERTISED SALE NOT*
23 *REQUIRED.—It shall not be a requirement for the ap-*
24 *proval or execution of a lease or agreement under this*

1 *subsection that the lease or agreement be offered for*
2 *sale through a public auction or advertised sale.*

3 *(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act supersedes the*
4 *Act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25 U.S.C.*
5 *396) only to the extent provided in subsection (a).*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to permit the mineral leasing of Indian land located within the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in any case in which there is consent from a majority interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.”.

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105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 1079

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