

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H.R. 1753**

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**AMENDMENT**  
**TO**  
**SENATE AMENDMENTS**

# ***In the House of Representatives, U. S.,***

*April 3, 2000.*

*Resolved*, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the title; and agree to the amendment of the Senate to the text to the bill (H.R. 1753) entitled “An Act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes”, with the following

## **AMENDMENT:**

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Methane Hydrate*  
3 *Research and Development Act of 2000”.*

4 ***SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.***

5 *In this Act:*

6 (1) *CONTRACT.*—*The term “contract” means a*  
7 *procurement contract within the meaning of section*  
8 *6303 of title 31, United States Code.*

9 (2) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.*—*The term “co-*  
10 *operative agreement” means a cooperative agreement*

1       *within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United*  
2       *States Code.*

3               (3) *DIRECTOR.*—*The term “Director” means the*  
4       *Director of the National Science Foundation.*

5               (4) *GRANT.*—*The term “grant” means a grant*  
6       *awarded under a grant agreement, within the mean-*  
7       *ing of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.*

8               (5) *INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.*—*The term “in-*  
9       *dustrial enterprise” means a private, nongovern-*  
10       *mental enterprise that has an expertise or capability*  
11       *that relates to methane hydrate research and develop-*  
12       *ment.*

13              (6) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—*The*  
14       *term “institution of higher education” means an in-*  
15       *stitution of higher education, within the meaning of*  
16       *section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965*  
17       *(20 U.S.C. 1002(a)).*

18              (7) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*  
19       *the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant*  
20       *Secretary for Fossil Energy.*

21              (8) *SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.*—*The term “Sec-*  
22       *retary of Commerce” means the Secretary of Com-*  
23       *merce, acting through the Administrator of the Na-*  
24       *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

1           (9) *SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.*—The term “Sec-  
2           retary of Defense” means the Secretary of Defense,  
3           acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

4           (10) *SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.*—The term  
5           “Secretary of the Interior” means the Secretary of the  
6           Interior, acting through the Director of the United  
7           States Geological Survey and the Director of the Min-  
8           erals Management Service.

9   **SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

10                           **PROGRAM.**

11           (a) *IN GENERAL.*—

12           (1) *COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.*—Not later  
13           than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this  
14           Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary  
15           of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary  
16           of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a  
17           program of methane hydrate research and develop-  
18           ment in accordance with this section.

19           (2) *DESIGNATIONS.*—The Secretary, the Sec-  
20           retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-  
21           retary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate  
22           individuals to carry out this section.

23           (3) *COORDINATION.*—The individual designated  
24           by the Secretary shall coordinate all activities within

1        *the Department of Energy relating to methane hy-*  
2        *drate research and development.*

3            (4) *MEETINGS.—The individuals designated*  
4        *under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 270*  
5        *days after the date of the enactment of this Act and*  
6        *not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—*

7            (A) *review the progress of the program*  
8            *under paragraph (1); and*

9            (B) *make recommendations on future ac-*  
10        *tivities to occur subsequent to the meeting.*

11        (b) *GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS,*  
12        *INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND FIELD*  
13        *WORK PROPOSALS.—*

14            (1) *ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-*  
15        *rying out the program of methane hydrate research*  
16        *and development authorized by this section, the Sec-*  
17        *retary may award grants or contracts to, or enter*  
18        *into cooperative agreements with, institutions of high-*  
19        *er education and industrial enterprises to—*

20            (A) *conduct basic and applied research to*  
21            *identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hy-*  
22            *drate as a source of energy;*

23            (B) *assist in developing technologies re-*  
24            *quired for efficient and environmentally sound*  
25            *development of methane hydrate resources;*

1           (C) undertake research programs to provide  
2 safe means of transport and storage of methane  
3 produced from methane hydrates;

4           (D) promote education and training in  
5 methane hydrate resource research and resource  
6 development;

7           (E) conduct basic and applied research to  
8 assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of  
9 hydrate degassing (including both natural  
10 degassing and degassing associated with commer-  
11 cial development);

12           (F) develop technologies to reduce the risks  
13 of drilling through methane hydrates; and

14           (G) conduct exploratory drilling in support  
15 of the activities authorized by this paragraph.

16           (2) *COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.*—Funds  
17 made available under paragraph (1) shall be made  
18 available based on a competitive merit-based process.

19           (c) *CONSULTATION.*—The Secretary shall establish an  
20 advisory panel consisting of experts from industrial enter-  
21 prises, institutions of higher education, and Federal agen-  
22 cies to—

23           (1) advise the Secretary on potential applica-  
24 tions of methane hydrate;

1           (2) *assist in developing recommendations and*  
2           *priorities for the methane hydrate research and devel-*  
3           *opment program carried out under subsection (a)(1);*  
4           *and*

5           (3) *not later than 2 years after the date of the*  
6           *enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the*  
7           *panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a report*  
8           *on the anticipated impact on global climate change*  
9           *from—*

10                   (A) *methane hydrate formation;*

11                   (B) *methane hydrate degassing (including*  
12                   *natural degassing and degassing associated with*  
13                   *commercial development); and*

14                   (C) *the consumption of natural gas pro-*  
15                   *duced from methane hydrates.*

16 *Not more than 25 percent of the individuals serving on the*  
17 *advisory panel shall be Federal employees.*

18           (d) *LIMITATIONS.—*

19                   (1) *ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than*  
20                   *5 percent of the amount made available to carry out*  
21                   *this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Sec-*  
22                   *retary for expenses associated with the administration*  
23                   *of the program carried out under subsection (a)(1).*

24                   (2) *CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds*  
25                   *made available to carry out this section may be used*

1       *for the construction of a new building or the acquisi-*  
2       *tion, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an exist-*  
3       *ing building (including site grading and improve-*  
4       *ment and architect fees).*

5       *(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In car-*  
6       *rying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—*

7               *(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among*  
8       *government, industrial enterprises, and institutions of*  
9       *higher education to research, identify, assess, and ex-*  
10       *plore methane hydrate resources;*

11               *(2) undertake programs to develop basic infor-*  
12       *mation necessary for promoting long-term interest in*  
13       *methane hydrate resources as an energy source;*

14               *(3) ensure that the data and information devel-*  
15       *oped through the program are accessible and widely*  
16       *disseminated as needed and appropriate;*

17               *(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are*  
18       *developing technologies that may hold promise for*  
19       *methane hydrate resource development; and*

20               *(5) report annually to Congress on accomplish-*  
21       *ments under this section.*

22       **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POL-**  
23       **ICY ACT OF 1970.**

24       *Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act*  
25       *of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—*



1           (1) *in paragraph (6)—*

2                   (A) *in subparagraph (F), by striking “and”*  
3           *at the end;*

4                   (B) *by redesignating subparagraph (G) as*  
5           *subparagraph (H); and*

6                   (C) *by inserting after subparagraph (F) the*  
7           *following:*

8                           “(G) *for purposes of this section and sec-*  
9                           *tions 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate;*  
10                           *and”;*

11                   (2) *by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-*  
12           *graph (8); and*

13                   (3) *by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-*  
14           *lowing:*

15                           “(7) *The term ‘methane hydrate’ means—*

16                                   “(A) *a methane clathrate that is in the form*  
17                                   *of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material*  
18                                   *and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean*  
19                                   *and permafrost areas; and*

20                                   “(B) *other natural gas hydrates found in*  
21                                   *association with deep-ocean and permafrost de-*  
22                                   *posits of methane hydrate.”.*

23   **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24           *There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-*  
25   *retary of Energy to carry out this Act—*

- 1           (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;
- 2           (2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;
- 3           (3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;
- 4           (4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and
- 5           (5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

6 *Amounts authorized under this section shall remain avail-*  
7 *able until expended.*

8 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

9           *Section 3 of this Act shall cease to be effective after*  
10 *the end of fiscal year 2005.*

11 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY.**

12           *The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the*  
13 *National Research Council for such council to conduct a*  
14 *study of the progress made under the methane hydrate re-*  
15 *search and development program implemented pursuant to*  
16 *this Act, and to make recommendations for future methane*  
17 *hydrate research and development needs. The Secretary*  
18 *shall transmit to the Congress, not later than September*  
19 *30, 2004, a report containing the findings and rec-*  
20 *ommendations of the National Research Council under this*  
21 *section.*

22 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

23           *The Secretary of Energy shall provide to the Com-*  
24 *mittee on Science of the House of Representatives copies of*

- 1 *any report or study that the Department of Energy pre-*
- 2  *pares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.*

*Attest:*

*Clerk.*