

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6515

To amend the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an expeditious environmentally responsible program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2008

Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HODES, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. SPACE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. FOSTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an expeditious environmentally responsible program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Drill Responsibly in
3 Leased Lands Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA:
5 LEASE SALES.**

6 Section 107(a) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Pro-
7 duction Act of 1976 is amended to read as follows:

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an
9 expeditious environmentally responsible program of com-
10 petitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum
11 Reserve in Alaska in accordance with this Act. Such pro-
12 gram shall include no fewer than one lease sale in the Re-
13 serve each year during the period 2009 through 2013.”.

14 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PIPE-
15 LINE CONSTRUCTION.**

16 The Secretary of Transportation shall facilitate, in an
17 environmentally responsible manner and in coordination
18 with the Secretary of the Interior, the construction of
19 pipelines necessary to transport oil and gas from or
20 through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to ex-
21 isting transportation or processing infrastructure on the
22 North Slope of Alaska.

23 **SEC. 4. ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT FACILI-
24 TATION.**

25 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Over 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas re-
2 serves have been discovered on Federal and State
3 lands currently open to oil and gas leasing on the
4 North Slope of Alaska.

5 (2) These gas supplies could make a significant
6 contribution to meeting the energy needs of the
7 United States, but the lack of a natural gas trans-
8 portation system has prevented these gas reserves
9 from reaching markets in the lower 48 States.

10 (b) FACILITATION BY PRESIDENT.—The President
11 shall, pursuant to the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act
12 (division C of Public Law 108–324; 15 U.S.C. 720 et seq.)
13 and other applicable law, coordinate with producers of oil
14 and natural gas on the North Slope of Alaska, Federal
15 agencies, the State of Alaska, Canadian authorities, and
16 other interested persons in order to facilitate construction
17 of a natural gas pipeline from Alaska to United States
18 markets as expeditiously as possible.

19 **SEC. 5. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS AND OTHER PIPE-**
20 **LINE REQUIREMENTS.**

21 (a) PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS.—The President,
22 as a term and condition of any permit required under Fed-
23 eral law for the pipelines referred to in section 3 and sec-
24 tion 4, and in recognizing the Government’s interest in
25 labor stability and in the ability of construction labor and

1 management to meet the particular needs and conditions
2 of such pipelines to be developed under such permits and
3 the special concerns of the holders of such permits, shall
4 require that the operators of such pipelines and their
5 agents and contractors negotiate to obtain a project labor
6 agreement for the employment of laborers and mechanics
7 on production, maintenance, and construction for such
8 pipelines.

9 (b) PIPELINE MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of
10 Transportation shall require every pipeline operator au-
11 thorized to transport oil and gas produced under Federal
12 oil and gas leases in Alaska through the Trans-Alaska
13 Pipeline, any pipeline constructed pursuant to section 3
14 or 4 of this Act, or any other federally approved pipeline
15 transporting oil and gas from the North Slope of Alaska,
16 to certify to the Secretary of Transportation annually that
17 such pipeline is being fully maintained and operated in
18 an efficient manner. The Secretary of Transportation shall
19 assess appropriate civil penalties for violations of this re-
20 quirement in the same manner as civil penalties are as-
21 sessed for violations under section 60122(a)(1) of title 49,
22 United States Code.

1 **SEC. 6. BAN ON EXPORT OF ALASKAN OIL.**

2 (a) REPEAL OF PROVISION AUTHORIZING EX-
3 PORTS.—Section 28(s) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30
4 U.S.C. 185(s)) is repealed.

5 (b) REIMPOSITION OF PROHIBITION ON CRUDE OIL
6 EXPORTS.—Upon the effective date of this Act, subsection
7 (d) of section 7 of the Export Administration Act of 1979
8 (50 U.S.C. App. 2406(d)), shall be effective, and any other
9 provision of that Act (including sections 11 and 12) shall
10 be effective to the extent necessary to carry out such sec-
11 tion 7(d), notwithstanding section 20 of that Act or any
12 other provision of law that would otherwise allow exports
13 of oil to which such section 7(d) applies.

14 **SEC. 7. ISSUANCE OF NEW LEASES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—After the date of the issuance of
16 regulations under subsection (b), the Secretary of the In-
17 terior shall not issue to a person any new lease that au-
18 thorizes the exploration for or production of oil or natural
19 gas, under section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (33
20 U.S.C. 226), the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands
21 Act (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf
22 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), or any other law au-
23 thorizing the issuance of oil and gas leases on Federal
24 lands or submerged lands, unless—

25 (1) the person certifies for each existing lease
26 under such Acts for the production of oil or gas with

1 respect to which the person is a lessee, that the per-
2 son is diligently developing the Federal lands that
3 are subject to the lease in order to produce oil or
4 natural gas or is producing oil or natural gas from
5 such land; or

6 (2) the person has relinquished all ownership
7 interest in all Federal oil and gas leases under which
8 oil and gas is not being diligently developed.

9 (b) DILIGENT DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall
10 issue regulations within 180 days after the date of enact-
11 ment of this Act that establish what constitutes “diligently
12 developing” for purposes of this Act.

13 (c) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—
14 Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of
15 this section or any regulation or order issued to implement
16 this section shall be liable for a civil penalty under section
17 109 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act
18 of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1719).

19 (d) LESSEE DEFINED.—In this section the term “les-
20 see”—

21 (1) includes any person or other entity that
22 controls, is controlled by, or is in or under common
23 control with, a lessee; and

24 (2) does not include any person who does not
25 hold more than a minority ownership interest in a

1 lease under an Act referred to in subsection (a) au-
2 thorizing the exploration for or production of oil or
3 natural gas.

4 **SEC. 8. FAIR RETURN ON PRODUCTION OF FEDERAL OIL**
5 **AND GAS RESOURCES.**

6 (a) **ROYALTY PAYMENTS.**—The Secretary of the In-
7 terior shall take all steps necessary to ensure that lessees
8 under leases for exploration, development, and production
9 of oil and natural gas on Federal lands, including leases
10 under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.),
11 the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C.
12 351 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (30
13 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), and all other mineral leasing laws,
14 are making prompt, transparent, and accurate royalty
15 payments under such leases.

16 (b) **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE AC-**
17 **TION.**—In order to facilitate implementation of subsection
18 (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall, within 180 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act and in con-
20 sultation with the affected States, prepare and transmit
21 to Congress recommendations for legislative action to im-
22 prove the accurate collection of Federal oil and gas royal-
23 ties.

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