

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6909

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to give priority to consideration of applications for permits and other authorizations required for renewable energy projects on Federal public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Mr. PORTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to give priority to consideration of applications for permits and other authorizations required for renewable energy projects on Federal public land, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ON PUBLIC**
4 **LANDS.**

5 (a) APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
6 PROJECTS ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
8 rior—

1 (A) shall give priority to consideration of
2 applications for permits and other authoriza-
3 tions required for renewable energy projects on
4 Federal public land;

5 (B) shall issue regulations that establish
6 an expedited and efficient process for the sub-
7 mission and consideration of such applications,
8 including projects pending before the Depart-
9 ment of the Interior on the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act; and

11 (C) shall approve or disapprove such an
12 application by not later than 180 days after the
13 date the application is submitted.

14 (2) FAILURE TO ACT ON APPLICATION.—If the
15 Secretary fails to approve or disapprove an applica-
16 tion in accordance with paragraph (1)(C), the applica-
17 tion is deemed approved by the Secretary

18 (b) TREATMENT UNDER NATIONAL ENVIRON-
19 MENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969.—For purposes of the Na-
20 tional the Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regu-
21 lations under that Act—

22 (1) any renewable energy project on Federal
23 public land is deemed to be in the public interest;
24 and

1 (2) no statement under section 102(2)(C) of
2 that Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) is required for such
3 a project if an environmental assessment is prepared
4 for the project in accordance with those regulations.

5 (c) LEASE OR SALE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In any lease or sale of Fed-
7 eral public land for use for a renewable energy
8 project, the amount required to be paid to the
9 United States as rent or the purchase price shall not
10 exceed the fair market value of the land before any
11 construction or other improvement of the land for
12 such project.

13 (2) LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
14 apply with respect to any part of the land that is
15 used for any purpose other than for the renewable
16 energy project.

17 (d) IDENTIFICATION OF SUITABLE LAND.—The Sec-
18 retary of the Interior shall promptly identify Federal pub-
19 lic land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Sec-
20 retary that is suitable and feasible for renewable energy
21 projects.

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