

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2791

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant economy-related contract extensions of a certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant economy-related contract extensions of a certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Forest Harvest Oppor-
5 tunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) **ECONOMY-RELATED CONTRACT EXTEN-**
2 **SION.**—The term “economy-related contract exten-

3 sion” means the addition of 3 years to the expiration
4 date of a qualifying contract for the right to cut and
5 remove timber.

6 (2) **QUALIFYING CONTRACT.**—The term “quali-

7 fying contract” means a contract, executed on or be-

8 fore December 31, 2008, for the sale of timber from
9 land administered by the Bureau of Land Manage-

10 ment—

11 (A) for which there is unharvested volume
12 remaining;

13 (B) for which, not later than 90 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the timber
15 purchaser makes a written request to the Sec-

16 retary for an economy-related contract exten-

17 sion; and

18 (C) that has not been terminated prior to
19 the request for an economy-related contract ex-

20 tension under section 3(a).

21 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-

23 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

24 (4) **TIMBER PURCHASER.**—The term “timber
25 purchaser” means the party to the qualifying con-

1 tract for the sale of timber from land administered
2 by the Bureau of Land Management.

3 **SEC. 3. ECONOMY-RELATED CONTRACT EXTENSIONS.**

4 (a) REQUEST.—Not later than 30 days after a timber
5 purchaser requests an economy-related contract extension
6 of a qualifying contract between the Secretary and the
7 timber purchaser, the Secretary shall modify the quali-
8 fying contract to add 3 years to the contract expiration
9 date.

10 (b) WAIVER OF CLAIMS AS OF EXTENSION.—The
11 timber purchaser shall waive any and all claims the timber
12 purchaser has against the United States involving the
13 qualifying contract that exist on the date that the Sec-
14 retary modifies the qualifying contract under subsection
15 (a).

16 (c) CLAIMS PRIOR TO DATE OF EXTENSION.—Noth-
17 ing in this Act affects any claim by the United States
18 against any timber purchaser, including claims that arose
19 under a qualifying contract before the date on which the
20 Secretary extends the contract expiration date under sub-
21 section (a).

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