

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2170

Streamlining Federal review to facilitate renewable energy projects.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. WITTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

Streamlining Federal review to facilitate renewable energy projects.

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 “Cutting Federal Red
5 Tape to Facilitate Renewable Energy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR RENEWABLE EN-**
7 **ERGY PROJECTS.**

8 (a) COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA FOR RENEWABLE EN-
9 ERGY PROJECTS.—In complying with the National Envi-
10 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (41 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

1 with respect to any action authorizing or facilitating a pro-
2 posed renewable energy project, a Federal agency shall—

3 (1) consider only the proposed action and the
4 no action alternative;

5 (2) analyze only the proposed action and the no
6 action alternative; and

7 (3) identify and analyze potential mitigation
8 measures only for the proposed action and the no
9 action alternative.

10 (b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In complying with the Na-
11 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to
12 a proposed renewable energy project, a Federal agency
13 shall only consider public comments that specifically ad-
14 dress the proposed action or the no action alternative (or
15 both) and are filed within 30 days after publication of a
16 draft environmental assessment or draft environmental
17 impact statement.

18 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

19 (1) FEDERAL WATERS.—The term “Federal
20 waters” means waters seaward of the coastal zone
21 (as that term is defined in section 304 of the Coast-
22 al Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.
23 1453)), to the limits of the exclusive economic zone
24 or the Outer Continental Shelf, whichever is farther.

1 (2) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—The term
2 “Outer Continental Shelf” has the meaning the term
3 “outer Continental Shelf” has in the Outer Conti-
4 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

5 (3) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT.—The term
6 “renewable energy project” means a project on Fed-
7 eral lands or in Federal waters, including a project
8 on the Outer Continental Shelf, using wind, solar
9 power, geothermal power, biomass, or tidal or kinetic
10 forces to generate energy.

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