

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2265

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for the 5-year period 2016 through 2020, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. SHIMKUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for the 5-year period 2016 through 2020, 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 “More Energy More  
5 Jobs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) More than 85 percent of all offshore areas  
2 remain off-limits to oil and gas exploration. The cur-  
3 rent plan for offshore oil and gas development under  
4 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.  
5 1331 et seq.), the Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leas-  
6 ing Program for 2012–2017, scales back on previous  
7 draft plans by removing the Eastern Gulf of Mexico  
8 and areas in the Atlantic. It also excludes the entire  
9 Atlantic Coast, the entire Pacific Coast, and nearly  
10 all of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which have been  
11 little explored.

12           (2) Many State governments have expressed a  
13 desire to proceed with oil and gas exploration and  
14 development off their coasts, but have not had the  
15 support of the Federal Government.

16           (3) The Congress delegated its authority over  
17 Federal lands of the outer Continental Shelf (as that  
18 term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf  
19 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)), including for  
20 the offshore oil and gas leasing process, to the Sec-  
21 retary of the Interior under that Act. The Congress  
22 has the authority to enlarge the role of interested  
23 State governments.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE NEW 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS**  
2 **LEASING PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—

4 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 24 months  
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of the Interior shall issue an oil and gas leas-  
7 ing program under section 18 of the Outer Conti-  
8 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) for the  
9 subsequent 5-year period.

10 (2) TERMINATION OF EXISTING PROGRAM.—  
11 The Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
12 for 2012–2017 shall have no force or effect after the  
13 issuance of an oil and gas leasing program under  
14 this section.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW  
16 LEASING PROGRAMS.—Section 18(c) of the Outer Conti-  
17 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is amended  
18 by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs  
19 (5) and (6), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—In pre-  
22 paring each leasing program under this section, the  
23 Secretary shall—

24 “(A) allow the Governor of a coastal State  
25 to nominate for leasing under such program  
26 areas of the outer Continental Shelf (as that

1 term is used in that Act) that are adjacent to  
2 the waters of that State;

3 “(B) include each area nominated under  
4 subparagraph (A) in the draft leasing program  
5 under this section and consider leasing of such  
6 areas as an alternative Federal action; and

7 “(C) include in development of the pro-  
8 gram resource estimates that are available, and  
9 develop resource estimates for the areas for  
10 which such data are not available including for  
11 the areas nominated under subparagraph (A).

12 “(3) INCLUSION OF STATE-NOMINATED  
13 AREAS.—The Secretary shall include in the final  
14 program issued under this section each area nomi-  
15 nated by a State under paragraph (2), unless the  
16 Secretary determines that the impacts of oil and gas  
17 development in a particular area cannot be effec-  
18 tively mitigated and the development is not in the  
19 national economic interest. If the Secretary omits  
20 any area nominated under paragraph (2), the Sec-  
21 retary shall submit to the Governor that nominated  
22 the area and the Committee on Natural Resources  
23 of the House of Representatives a report detailing  
24 why oil and gas development in such area is not in  
25 the national economic interest or why the impact of

1 oil and gas development in such area could not be  
2 effectively mitigated, and what steps the Secretary  
3 took to try and do so. After submittal of such report  
4 to such Governors, each such Governor shall be pro-  
5 vided 60 days within which to offer alternative views  
6 on why the Secretary's findings are not consistent  
7 with the national economic interest and why oil and  
8 gas development in the area concerned can be effec-  
9 tively mitigated.

10 “(4) NOTICE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAN.—  
11 The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register  
12 a notice of the effectiveness of each oil and gas leas-  
13 ing program issued under this section on the date  
14 such program takes effect.”

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