

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2157

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2017

Mr. BRAT (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. BABIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, 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 “Outer Continental
5 Shelf Energy Access Now Act” or the “OCEAN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO**
2 **WITHDRAW AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTI-**
3 **NENTAL SHELF FROM OIL AND GAS LEASING.**

4 (a) WITHDRAWALS.—

5 (1) LIMITATION.—Section 12 of the Outer Con-
6 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341) is
7 amended—

8 (A) by amending subsection (a) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(a) LIMITATION ON WITHDRAWALS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
12 vided in this section, no unleased lands of the outer
13 Continental Shelf may be withdrawn from disposi-
14 tion except by statute.

15 “(2) NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES.—The
16 President may withdraw from disposition any of the
17 unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf located
18 in a national marine sanctuary designated in accord-
19 ance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16
20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) or by statute, by issuance of
21 a rule in accordance with section 553 of title 5,
22 United State Code.”; and

23 (B) in subsection (c), by adding at the end
24 the following: “Any suspension of operations
25 under this subsection shall be for a period of
26 not more than 90 days, and may be renewed

1 one or more times for an additional period of
2 not more than 90 days.”.

3 (2) EXISTING WITHDRAWALS.—Any withdrawal
4 before the date of the enactment of this Act under
5 section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
6 Act (43 U.S.C. 1341), other than a withdrawal of an
7 area in a national marine sanctuary established in
8 accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries
9 Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) or in a national monu-
10 ment declared under the Act of June 8, 1906 (ch.
11 3060; 34 Stat. 225), or chapter 3203 of title 54,
12 United States Code, shall have no force or effect.

13 (b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH
14 MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENTS.—

15 (1) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section
16 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is amended
17 by adding at the end the following:

18 “(e) LIMITATION ON MARINE AREAS.—Notwith-
19 standing subsections (a) and (b), the President may not
20 declare or reserve any ocean waters (as such term is de-
21 fined in section 3 of the Marine Protection, Research, and
22 Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1402)) or lands be-
23 neath ocean waters as a national monument.”.

24 (2) EXISTING MONUMENTS NOT AFFECTED.—
25 Nothing in this subsection affects any national

1 monument declared before the date of the enactment
2 of this Act.

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