

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4103

To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit an annual report to Congress on certain statistics related to applications for a permit to drill an oil or gas well, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2017

Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. GRJALVA, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit an annual report to Congress on certain statistics related to applications for a permit to drill an oil or gas well, 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 “Having Open Access
5 to Relevant Data Act” or the “HOARD Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT REQUIRED.**

7 (a) REPORT ON APDS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of
2 each year, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit
3 to Congress a report on the following statistics:

4 (A) The number of APDs approved by the
5 BLM during the previous fiscal year for which
6 the applicant has not begun drilling by the end
7 of such year.

8 (B) The number of APDs approved by the
9 BLM during any fiscal year for which the appli-
10 cant has not begun drilling by the end of the
11 previous fiscal year.

12 (C) With respect to APDs approved by the
13 BLM during the previous fiscal year, the aver-
14 age number of days between receipt of an APD
15 by the BLM and the approval of such APD,
16 disaggregated by the average number of such
17 days—

18 (i) the APD was being processed by
19 BLM; and

20 (ii) the BLM was waiting on addi-
21 tional information from the applicant.

22 (D) With respect to APDs approved by the
23 BLM during the previous fiscal year, the aver-
24 age cost of approving an APD.

1 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The Secretary of the
2 Interior shall disaggregate each statistic required
3 under paragraph (1) by the location of the site for
4 which the APD was requested, including by—

5 (A) the State in which such site is located;

6 (B) the BLM field office that administers
7 the land upon which such site is located;

8 (C) whether or not the site is located on
9 Federal land; and

10 (D) whether or not the site is located on
11 Indian land.

12 (b) DISCOURAGING HOARDING AND SPECULATION.—

13 (1) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FUNDS USED FOR
14 STREAMLINING PROCESSING OF APDS.—No Federal
15 funds may be used to streamline BLM processing of
16 APDs during a fiscal year if, on the last day of the
17 previous fiscal year, the number of APDs approved
18 by the BLM during any fiscal year, but for which
19 the applicant has not begun drilling, is greater than
20 twice the number of APDs received by the BLM
21 during any fiscal year for which the BLM has nei-
22 ther approved nor requested more information from
23 the applicant.

24 (2) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING
25 APDS PER APPLICANT.—If any applicant, including

1 its affiliates, has received greater than 100 approved
2 APDs from the BLM for which such applicant, in-
3 cluding its affiliates, has not begun drilling, then
4 such applicant, including its affiliates, shall not be
5 eligible to participate in the competitive and non-
6 competitive bidding processes for oil and gas explo-
7 ration and production under the Minerals Leasing
8 Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) during the 5-year period
9 beginning on the first day of the next fiscal year.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

11 (1) AFFILIATE.—With respect to an applicant,
12 the term “affiliate” means any person that controls,
13 is controlled by, or is under common control with the
14 applicant.

15 (2) APD.—The term “APD” means an applica-
16 tion received by the BLM for a permit to drill an
17 oil or gas well.

18 (3) BLM.—The term “BLM” means the Bu-
19 reau of Land Management.

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