H. R. 5636

To provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuel extraction and emissions by entities with leases on public land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2020

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

A BILL

To provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuel extraction and emissions by entities with leases on public land, 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,
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4  SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5  This Act may be cited as the “Transparency in En-
6  ergy Production Act of 2020”.
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8  SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.
9  (a) Report Required for an Entity Seeking a
10  Lease.—The Secretary shall require any entity seeking
11
12  a lease to develop covered operations on public land to sub-
mit to the Secretary a report, at the time of submission of a bid to develop covered operations. Such report shall—

(1) make the disclosures described in the Sustainable Accounting Standard for the Extractives and Minerals Processing Sector and the Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy Sector in effect on the date the report is filed (that is produced by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board) for the covered operations developed by the entity and in effect at the date of such bid; and

(2) disaggregate the information in paragraph 1 by State and by type of covered operation.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED FOR AN ENTITY HOLDING A LEASE.—The Secretary shall require any entity holding a lease to develop covered operations on public land to submit to the Secretary a report annually. Such report shall—

(1) make the disclosures described in the Sustainable Accounting Standard for the Extractives and Minerals Processing Sector and the Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy Sector in effect on the date the report is filed (that is produced by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board); and
(2) disaggregate the information in paragraph 1 by State and by type of covered operation. 

(c) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If the Secretary determines that an entity did not meet the requirements of subsection (a), the Secretary—

(1) may not issue to such entity a lease for a covered operation; and

(2) may suspend a lease for a covered operation held by such entity.

SEC. 3. ONLINE PUBLICATION OF DISCLOSURE.

The Secretary shall make the information reported under section 2 available to the public on an internet website in a machine readable format.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) with respect to covered operations, the annual and 2-year totals of greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, water management, biodiversity impacts, production, and number of sites according to the metrics described in the Sustainable Accounting Standard for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in effect on the date the report is filed (that is produced by the Sustainability Accounting Stand-
ard Board) for covered operations on public land;
and
(2) the changes in the information in paragraph 1;
(3) the projected future changes for 5, 10, and 25 years; and
(4) for renewable energy operations, an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions that would result from production of the same amount of energy using fossil fuels.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED OPERATION.—The term “covered operation” means—
(A) any renewable energy operations; and
(B) fossil fuel operations that are subject to the mineral leasing laws or title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (30 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.).

(2) FOSSIL FUEL.—The term “fossil fuel” means oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and coal.

(3) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).
(4) **RENEWABLE ENERGY.**—The term “renewable energy” means a project carried out on public land that uses wind, solar, geothermal, wave, current, tidal, or ocean thermal energy to generate electricity.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

**SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.