

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1064

To require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the national security implications of building ethane and other natural-gas-liquids-related petrochemical infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 8, 2019

Mr. MANCHIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the national security implications of building ethane and other natural-gas-liquids-related petrochemical infrastructure in the United States, 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 “Appalachian Energy
5 for National Security Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Energy Information Administration
2 projects that—

3 (A) domestic natural gas production from
4 shale resources will more than double between
5 2017 and 2050; and

6 (B) continued development of the
7 Marcellus and Utica shale plays in the eastern
8 United States is the main driver of growth in
9 total domestic natural gas production across
10 most scenarios;

11 (2) the Department of Energy has found that—

12 (A) the shale resource endowment of the
13 Appalachian Basin is so bountiful that, if the
14 Appalachian Basin were an independent coun-
15 try, the Appalachian Basin would be the third
16 largest producer of natural gas in the world;

17 (B) with more than \$300,000,000,000 of
18 net revenue, 900,000 workers, and 7,500 estab-
19 lishments, Appalachia and surrounding areas
20 account for nearly a third of United States ac-
21 tivities in 13 petrochemical industries; and

22 (C) the aggregate revenue growth from
23 commodity chemicals that can be derived from
24 ethane (commonly known as the “value chain”)

1 is projected to be \$716,000,000,000 between
2 2018 and 2040;

3 (3) geographical diversity and structural resil-
4 ience is critical, given that the Department of En-
5 ergy has found that—

6 (A) 95 percent of ethylene production ca-
7 pacity in the United States currently exists in
8 the States of Louisiana and Texas;

9 (B) this concentration of assets and oper-
10 ations may pose a strategic risk to the economy
11 of the United States as extreme weather events
12 impacting the production of petrochemicals (in-
13 cluding plastic resin) on the Gulf Coast can
14 limit the availability of feedstocks to manufac-
15 turers across the United States; and

16 (C) in August 2017, many Gulf Coast re-
17 fineries and petrochemical facilities shut down,
18 which affected 54 percent of United States
19 ethylene production and 36 percent of United
20 States ethylene consumption capacity;

21 (4) there are economic efficiencies and economic
22 security benefits to maintaining all elements of the
23 value chain for ethane and other natural gas liquids
24 in clusters in various geographical regions, provided
25 each cluster includes natural gas production, natural

1 gas processing plants, natural gas liquids fraction-
2 ation plants, natural gas liquids transportation in-
3 frastructure, natural gas liquids storage, and ethane
4 and other natural gas liquids petrochemical infra-
5 structure;

6 (5) there are economic efficiencies to building
7 ethane and other natural-gas-liquids-related petro-
8 chemical infrastructure, including storage and dis-
9 tribution systems, within the Appalachian region, be-
10 cause of the close proximity of the region to the in-
11 dustrial Midwest and manufacturers in the Eastern
12 United States that use petrochemicals, such as plas-
13 tic resins, as manufacturing inputs; and

14 (6) it is a priority of the United States to mini-
15 mize effects of volatility in any individual market by
16 maintaining—

17 (A) a robust domestic natural gas liquids
18 resource base;

19 (B) the requisite physical assets along the
20 value chain for ethane and other natural gas
21 liquids; and

22 (C) diversity in customers, both domesti-
23 cally and internationally.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORTS ON BUILDING ETHANE AND**
2 **OTHER NATURAL-GAS-LIQUIDS-RELATED PE-**
3 **TROCHEMICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

4 (a) STUDY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Energy (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
8 retary”), in consultation with the Secretary of De-
9 fense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads
10 of other relevant Federal departments and agencies
11 and stakeholders, shall conduct a study assessing the
12 potential national economic security impacts of
13 building ethane and other natural-gas-liquids-related
14 petrochemical infrastructure in the geographical vi-
15 cinity of the Marcellus, Utica, and Rogersville shale
16 plays in the United States.

17 (2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under
18 paragraph (1) shall include—

19 (A) the identification of potential benefits
20 of the proposed infrastructure to national and
21 economic security, including the identification
22 of potential risks to national and economic se-
23 curity of significant foreign ownership and con-
24 trol of United States domestic petrochemical re-
25 sources; and

1 (B) an examination of, with respect to the
2 proposed infrastructure—

3 (i) types of additional infrastructure
4 needed to fully optimize the potential na-
5 tional security benefits;

6 (ii) whether geopolitical diversity in
7 areas to which the ethane and other nat-
8 ural gas liquids will be exported from the
9 producing region would undermine or bol-
10 ster national security;

11 (iii) the necessity of evaluating the
12 public interest with respect to exports of
13 ethane, propane, butane, and other natural
14 gas liquids, to ensure the potential stra-
15 tegic national and economic security bene-
16 fits are preserved within the United States;
17 and

18 (iv) the potential benefits, with re-
19 spect to significant weather impacts, com-
20 pared to other regions, of locating the pro-
21 posed infrastructure in the geographical vi-
22 cinity of the Marcellus, Utica, and
23 Rogersville shale plays.

24 (b) REPORTS.—

1 (1) STATUS REPORTS.—Prior to completion of
2 the study under subsection (a), the Committees on
3 Energy and Natural Resources and Armed Services
4 of the Senate and the Committees on Energy and
5 Commerce and Armed Services of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives, from time to time, may request and re-
7 ceive from the Secretary status reports with respect
8 to the study, including any findings.

9 (2) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF RE-
10 PORT.—On completion of the study under subsection
11 (a), the Secretary shall—

12 (A) submit to the Committees on Energy
13 and Natural Resources and Armed Services of
14 the Senate and the Committees on Energy and
15 Commerce and Armed Services of the House of
16 Representatives a report describing the results
17 of the study; and

18 (B) publish the report on the website of
19 the Department of Energy.

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