

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 279

To establish a moratorium on energy development in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish a moratorium on energy development in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, 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 “Preserving the Gulf
5 Test Range to Ensure Military Readiness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN CER-**
7 **TAIN AREAS OF GULF OF MEXICO.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) MILITARY MISSION LINE.—The term “Mili-
10 tary Mission Line” has the meaning given the term

1 in section 102 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security
2 Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–
3 432).

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

6 (b) MORATORIUM.—Effective during the period be-
7 ginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending
8 on June 30, 2032, the Secretary shall not offer for leasing,
9 preleasing, or any related activity for energy development
10 of any kind—

11 (1) any area east of the Military Mission Line
12 in the Gulf of Mexico; or

13 (2) any area of the outer Continental Shelf de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of para-
15 graph (2) of subsection (d), if oil, gas, wind, or any
16 other form of energy exploration, leasing, or develop-
17 ment in that area has been identified in a report
18 under that subsection as having any adverse effect
19 on the national security of the United States or the
20 military readiness or testing capabilities of the De-
21 partment of Defense.

22 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL EXCEPTIONS.—Notwith-
23 standing subsection (b), the Secretary may issue leases in
24 areas described in that subsection for environmental con-
25 servation purposes, including the purposes of shore protec-

1 tion, beach nourishment and restoration, wetlands restora-
2 tion, and habitat protection.

3 (d) REPORTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, and not
6 later than June 30, 2031, the Secretary of Defense
7 shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations
8 and Armed Services of the Senate and the Commit-
9 tees on Appropriations and Armed Services of the
10 House of Representatives a report that describes the
11 impact of oil, gas, wind, and any other form of en-
12 ergy exploration, leasing, or development in areas of
13 the outer Continental Shelf described in paragraph
14 (2) on the national security of the United States and
15 the military readiness and testing capabilities of the
16 Department of Defense.

17 (2) AREAS DESCRIBED.—The areas of the outer
18 Continental Shelf referred to in paragraph (1) are
19 the following:

20 (A) Any area west of the Military Mission
21 Line in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning
22 Area.

23 (B) The South Atlantic Planning Area.

24 (C) The Straits of Florida Planning Area.

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