

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3061

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2025

Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CRENSHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales, 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 “Bringing Reliable In-
5 vestment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production Act of
6 2025” or the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

8 Congress finds that President Donald Trump issued
9 Executive Order 14156 (90 Fed. Reg. 8433; relating to

1 declaring a national energy emergency) on January 20,
2 2025.

3 **SEC. 3. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) OFFSHORE LEASE SALE.—The term “off-
6 shore lease sale” means an oil and gas lease sale
7 that—

8 (A) is held by the Secretary in accordance
9 with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
10 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), notwithstanding the re-
11 quirements of section 18 of that Act (43 U.S.C.
12 1344);

13 (B) with respect to lease sales in the Gulf
14 of America, offers the same lease form, lease
15 terms, economic conditions, and stipulations as
16 contained in the final notice of sale titled “Gulf
17 of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region-Wide
18 Oil and Gas Lease Sale 254” (85 Fed. Reg.
19 8010; February 12, 2020);

20 (C) with respect to lease sales in the Cook
21 Inlet Planning Area, offers the same lease form,
22 lease terms, economic conditions, and stipula-
23 tions as contained in the final notice of sale ti-
24 tled “Cook Inlet Planning Area Outer Conti-

1 nental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244” (82
2 Fed. Reg. 23291 (May 22, 2017)); and

3 (D) if an acceptable bid has been received
4 for any tract offered in the lease sale (as deter-
5 mined under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Man-
6 agement “Summary of Procedures for Deter-
7 mining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and Gas
8 Lease Sales Effective March 2016, with Central
9 Gulf of Mexico Sale 241 and Eastern Gulf of
10 Mexico Sale 226”), results in the issuance of a
11 lease for such tract not later than 90 days after
12 the date of the sale to the highest bidder.

13 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any require-
16 ment of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
17 1331 et seq.) that would delay final approval of an off-
18 shore lease sale under subsection (c).

19 (c) REQUIREMENT.—In addition to the lease sales
20 planned pursuant to section 18 of the Outer Continental
21 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344), the Secretary shall
22 conduct not fewer than 26 offshore lease sales during the
23 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this
24 Act, including 20 lease sales in the Gulf of America and
25 6 lease sales in the Cook Inlet Planning Area.

1 (d) TIMING.—

2 (1) GULF OF AMERICA.—In conducting the off-
3 shore lease sales in the Gulf of America required
4 under subsection (c), the Secretary shall hold not
5 fewer than 1 lease sale under this paragraph on or
6 before each of the following dates:

7 (A) August 31, 2025.

8 (B) March 31, 2026.

9 (C) August 31, 2026.

10 (D) March 31, 2027.

11 (E) August 31, 2027.

12 (F) March 31, 2028.

13 (G) August 31, 2028.

14 (H) March 31, 2029.

15 (I) August 31, 2029.

16 (J) March 31, 2030.

17 (K) August 31, 2030.

18 (L) March 31, 2031.

19 (M) August 31, 2031.

20 (N) March 31, 2032.

21 (O) August 31, 2032.

22 (P) March 31, 2033.

23 (Q) August 31, 2033.

24 (R) March 31, 2034.

25 (S) August 31, 2034.

1 (T) March 31, 2035.

2 (2) COOK INLET PLANNING AREA.—In con-
3 ducting the offshore lease sales in the Cook Inlet
4 Planning Area required under subsection (c), the
5 Secretary shall hold not fewer than 1 lease sale
6 under this paragraph on or before each of the fol-
7 lowing dates:

8 (A) August 31, 2025.

9 (B) March 31, 2027.

10 (C) August 31, 2028.

11 (D) March 31, 2030.

12 (E) August 31, 2032.

13 (F) March 31, 2034.

14 (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—

15 (1) ACREAGE.—

16 (A) GULF OF AMERICA.—For each off-
17 shore lease sale conducted under subsection (c)
18 in the Gulf of America, the Secretary shall offer
19 for leasing not fewer than—

20 (i) 80,000,000 acres; or

21 (ii) if the total number of unleased
22 acres is less than 80,000,000 acres, the
23 total number of such acres.

24 (B) COOK INLET PLANNING AREA.—For
25 each offshore lease sale conducted under sub-

1 section (c) in the Cook Inlet Planning Area, the
2 Secretary shall offer for leasing not fewer
3 than—

4 (i) 1,000,000 acres; or

5 (ii) if the total number of unleased
6 acres is less than 1,000,000 acres, the
7 total number of such acres.

8 (2) LOCATION.—

9 (A) GULF OF AMERICA.—An offshore lease
10 sale conducted under subsection (c) in the Gulf
11 of America shall offer the areas identified as
12 the Proposed Final Program Area in Figure S–
13 1 of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil
14 and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program pub-
15 lished on November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of
16 Ocean Energy Management (as announced in
17 the notice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean
18 Energy Management entitled “Notice of Avail-
19 ability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental
20 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-
21 gram” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
22 2016))).

23 (B) COOK INLET PLANNING AREA.—An
24 offshore lease sale conducted under subsection
25 (c) in the Cook Inlet Planning Area shall only

1 offer an area within the Planning Area Bound-
2 ary depicted in Figure S–2 of the 2017–2022
3 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing
4 Proposed Final Program published on Novem-
5 ber 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean Energy
6 Management (as announced in the notice of
7 availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy
8 Management entitled “Notice of Availability of
9 the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and
10 Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program” (81
11 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23, 2016))).

12 (f) COMMINGLING WELLS.—For the purposes of
13 commingling wells in multiple reservoirs in a common
14 wellbore on the Outer Continental Shelf, the Secretary of
15 Interior shall approve operators commingling requests
16 within 45 days of receipt of an application.

17 (g) RESTORING REASONABLE ROYALTY RATES.—
18 Section 8(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
19 (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “not less
21 than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent, but not more than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,
22 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of
23 enactment of the Act titled ‘An Act to provide for
24 reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res.
25 14’, and not less than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent thereafter,” and

1 inserting “not less than 12.5 percent, but not more
2 than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,”;

3 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “not less
4 than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent, but not more than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,
5 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of
6 enactment of the Act titled ‘An Act to provide for
7 reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res.
8 14’, and not less than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent thereafter,” and
9 inserting “not less than 12.5 percent, but not more
10 than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,”;

11 (3) in subparagraph (F), by striking “not less
12 than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent, but not more than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,
13 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of
14 enactment of the Act titled ‘An Act to provide for
15 reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res.
16 14’, and not less than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent thereafter,” and
17 inserting “not less than 12.5 percent, but not more
18 than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,”; and

19 (4) in subparagraph (H), by striking “not less
20 than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent, but not more than $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent,
21 during the 10-year period beginning on the date of
22 enactment of the Act titled ‘An Act to provide for
23 reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res.
24 14’, and not less than $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent thereafter,” and

1 inserting “not less than 12.5 percent, but not more
2 than 18¾ percent,”.

3 (h) FIRST PRODUCTION INCENTIVE PILOT PRO-
4 GRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—For any lease issued pursu-
6 ant to an offshore lease sale required by this section,
7 the Secretary shall establish a pilot program under
8 which the Secretary may reduce the royalty rate
9 under section 8(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf
10 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)) to 10 percent for
11 the first 7 years of production from the area of the
12 lease if the leaseholder achieves first production
13 from such area by not later than 3 years after the
14 date on which the lease is issued.

15 (2) APPLICATION.—A leaseholder seeking a roy-
16 alty rate reduction under this subsection shall sub-
17 mit to the Secretary an application, which shall in-
18 clude evidence that the leaseholder met the first pro-
19 duction milestone described in paragraph (1), by not
20 later than 60 days after achieving the milestone.

21 (3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not re-
22 duce the royalty rate under paragraph (1) for more
23 than 25 leases.

24 (4) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,
25 2030, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-

1 port on the effectiveness of the pilot program at ac-
2 celerating offshore oil and gas production.

3 (5) FIRST PRODUCTION DEFINED.—In this sub-
4 section, the term “first production” means the date
5 on which oil or gas is produced in paying quantities,
6 as determined by the Secretary.

7 **SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER FEDERAL LAW.**

8 (a) During the period beginning on the date of the
9 enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 2
10 years after the date on which the last lease sale required
11 to be held under section 3 is held, with respect to each
12 lease sale held, lease issued, and any activity associated
13 with a lease issued pursuant to section 3, the Outer Conti-
14 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), or sec-
15 tion 50264 of Public Law 117–169 (commonly referred
16 to as the “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022”) that requires
17 a Federal authorization in the Gulf of America—

18 (1) compliance with the biological opinion
19 issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service ti-
20 tled “Biological Opinion on the Federally Regulated
21 Oil and Gas Program Activities in the Gulf of Mex-
22 ico” and the incidental take statement associated
23 with such biological opinion (published March 12,
24 2020, and updated April 26, 2021) shall be deemed
25 to be compliance with each applicable requirement of

1 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
2 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protection
3 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.);

4 (2) the document published by the Bureau of
5 Ocean Energy Management titled “Gulf of Mexico
6 OCS Lease Sales 259 and 261 Final Supplemental
7 Environmental Impact Statement” (OCS EIS/EA
8 BOEM 2023–001; January 2023) and the docu-
9 ments tiered to and incorporated by reference there-
10 in shall be deemed sufficient to comply with the Na-
11 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
12 4321 et seq.) and division A of subtitle III of title
13 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as
14 the “National Historic Preservation Act”); and

15 (3) the consistency determinations prepared by
16 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management under
17 section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of
18 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456) for Lease Sale 261 for the
19 States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama,
20 and Florida shall be deemed sufficient to comply
21 with that section (16 U.S.C. 1456).

22 (b) Notwithstanding the Endangered Species Act of
23 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal
24 Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.), a reason-
25 able and prudent alternative or mitigation measures for

1 Balaenoptera ricei shall not have any force or effect nor
2 apply to any oil and gas operation in the Gulf of America,
3 for oil and gas activities in the Gulf of America which
4 would impact a lessee's activities authorized under the
5 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et
6 seq.), section 50264 of Public Law 117–169 (commonly
7 referred to as the “Inflation Reduction Act of 2022”), or
8 this Act with respect to offshore oil and gas exploration,
9 development, and production.

10 **SEC. 5. JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Interior
12 fails to hold a lease sale required under section 3 within
13 10 days of the date required by that section, a potential
14 responsible bidder may bring a civil action consistent with
15 section 23(c)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
16 (43 U.S.C. 1349(c)(2)) to require the Secretary to hold
17 the lease sale in accordance with section 3 of this Act and
18 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331
19 et seq.), notwithstanding the requirements of section 18
20 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1344).

21 (b) JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the court finds that the
23 Secretary failed to hold a lease sale as described in
24 subsection (a), the court shall enter an order requir-
25 ing the Secretary to hold the lease sale not later

1 than 120 days after the date required under section
2 3 for such lease sale and may appoint a special mas-
3 ter under subsection (d) to ensure compliance with
4 such order.

5 (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary fails to
7 comply with an order entered under this sub-
8 section, the court shall impose fines beginning
9 30 days after the date on which the Secretary
10 fails to hold a lease sale required under section
11 3, unless the Secretary demonstrates to the sat-
12 isfaction of the court that the failure of the
13 Secretary to comply with the order resulted
14 from circumstances beyond the control of the
15 Secretary.

16 (B) EXTENSION OF PERIOD TO COMPLY.—

17 If under subparagraph (A) the Secretary dem-
18 onstrates to the satisfaction of the court that
19 the failure of the Secretary to comply with an
20 order entered under this subsection resulted
21 from circumstances beyond the control of the
22 Secretary, the court may extend the date in the
23 order requiring the Secretary to hold the lease
24 sale that is the subject of the order by 30 days.

1 (C) FAILURE TO COMPLY DURING EXTEN-
2 SION PERIOD.—If the Secretary fails to hold a
3 lease sale described in subparagraph (B) within
4 the period described in that subparagraph, the
5 court shall impose fines beginning on the day
6 after the date on which that period ends and
7 appoint a special master in accordance with
8 subsection (d).

9 (c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Any action under
10 this section shall be filed not later than 30 days after the
11 date by which the lease sale was required to be held under
12 section 3.

13 (d) APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon finding under sub-
15 section (b)(1) that the Secretary has failed to hold
16 a lease sale required under section 3, the court may
17 appoint a special master to monitor compliance with
18 the order entered by the court under that sub-
19 section.

20 (2) POWERS AND DUTIES OF SPECIAL MAS-
21 TER.—A special master appointed under paragraph
22 (1) shall have all the powers and duties necessary to
23 monitor the actions necessary for the Secretary to
24 hold the lease sale described in paragraph (1), in-
25 cluding—

1 (A) monitoring the advertising and pro-
2 motion of the lease sale;

3 (B) the publication of notices in the Fed-
4 eral Register for the lease sale; and

5 (C) the issuance of leases to bidders that
6 submit acceptable bids.

7 (e) TIMEFRAME FOR CONDUCTING MISSED LEASE
8 SALE.—The court, the Secretary, and the special master,
9 as applicable, shall ensure that a lease sale that is the
10 subject of an action brought under subsection (a) is held
11 not later than 120 days after the original sale date.

12 (f) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
13 FUNDS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The costs associated with
15 monitoring a lease sale by a special master ap-
16 pointed under subsection (d) shall be paid out of
17 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to
18 the Office of the Secretary of the Interior.

19 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
20 shall allocate funds sufficient to cover the costs of
21 any special master appointed under subsection (d).

22 (g) LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action challenging an
24 activity under section 3 shall not—

1 (A) affect the validity of any lease issued
2 under such a lease sale; or

3 (B) cause a delay with respect to the proc-
4 essing or issuance of any such lease or any as-
5 sociated—

6 (i) exploration plan;

7 (ii) development plan;

8 (iii) development and operations co-
9 ordination document;

10 (iv) application for permit to drill; or

11 (v) application for any other Federal
12 authorization for an activity carried out
13 within the area of such a lease.

14 (2) RESTRICTION.—If, in a civil action chal-
15 lenging a lease sale held under section 3, a court
16 finds that the lease sale was not carried out in com-
17 pliance with section 3, the court—

18 (A) shall remand the matter to the Sec-
19 retary or other appropriate officer to correct
20 the noncompliance; and

21 (B) shall not—

22 (i) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the
23 lease sale or any lease issued pursuant to
24 the lease sale; or

1 (ii) enjoin the Secretary from issuing
 2 leases pursuant to the challenged lease
 3 sale.

4 (3) VENUE.—Any civil action described in this
 5 subsection shall be subject to judicial review only
 6 consistent with section 23(c)(2) of the Outer Conti-
 7 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1349(c)(2)).

8 (h) SECURITY FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—A party
 9 seeking injunctive relief to delay or prevent a lease sale
 10 held under section 3 or to delay or prevent the issuance
 11 of a lease by the Secretary following such a lease sale,
 12 shall provide security pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
 13 Procedure 65(c), or pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate
 14 Procedure 8(a)(2)(E), as applicable.

15 (i) OTHER ACTIONS.—Section 4 shall be subject to
 16 judicial review only consistent with section 23(c)(2) of the
 17 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
 18 1349(c)(2)).

19 **SEC. 6. CONTINUOUS LEASING PROGRAMS.**

20 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
 21 (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by adding at the end the
 22 following:

23 “(j) CONTINUOUS LEASING PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) PURPOSE.—The leasing program required
 25 under this section shall be maintained without inter-

1 ruption to ensure a continuous schedule of offshore
2 oil and gas lease sales on the outer Continental
3 Shelf, avoiding any lapse between the expiration of
4 one 5-year leasing program and the approval of the
5 subsequent program.

6 “(2) TIMELY APPROVAL.—For each leasing pro-
7 gram covering a 5-year period beginning on or after
8 the date of enactment of the Bringing Reliable In-
9 vestment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production Act
10 of 2025, the Secretary shall approve the final leasing
11 program by not later than 120 days before the expi-
12 ration date of the preceding leasing program.

13 “(3) PREPARATION SCHEDULE.—To meet the
14 requirement of paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

15 “(A) not later than 24 months before the
16 expiration of the leasing program in effect, pub-
17 lish a draft proposed leasing program for the
18 subsequent 5-year period; and

19 “(B) complete the consultation, comment,
20 and approval processes required under this sec-
21 tion in time to comply with paragraph (2).

22 “(4) DEFAULT SCHEDULE IN CASE OF
23 DELAY.—If the Secretary fails to approve a leasing
24 program for a subsequent 5-year period by the date
25 specified in paragraph (2), the following leasing

1 schedule and requirements shall immediately take ef-
2 fect as the operative leasing program under this sec-
3 tion for that 5-year period:

4 “(A) GULF OF AMERICA REGION.—The
5 Secretary shall annually conduct two region-
6 wide oil and gas lease sales, one in the Central
7 Gulf of America Planning Area and one in the
8 Western Gulf of America Planning Area, as de-
9 scribed in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental
10 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-
11 gram published on November 18, 2016, by the
12 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (as an-
13 nounced in the notice of availability of the Bu-
14 reau of Ocean Energy Management entitled
15 ‘Notice of Availability of the 2017–2022 Outer
16 Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Pro-
17 posed Final Program’ (81 Fed. Reg. 84612
18 (November 23, 2016))).

19 “(B) ALASKA REGION.—The Secretary
20 shall annually conduct one region-wide oil and
21 gas lease sale in the Alaska Region of the outer
22 Continental Shelf, as described in the 2017–
23 2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas
24 Leasing Proposed Final Program published on
25 November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean

1 Energy Management (as announced in the no-
2 tice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean En-
3 ergy Management entitled ‘Notice of Avail-
4 ability of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental
5 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-
6 gram’ (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
7 2016))).

8 “(C) SCOPE OF OFFERINGS.—Each lease
9 sale conducted under this paragraph shall in-
10 clude all unleased acres in the areas identified
11 in Figure 1–2 of the 2017–2022 Outer Conti-
12 nental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed
13 Final Program published on November 18,
14 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
15 ment (as announced in the notice of availability
16 of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
17 entitled ‘Notice of Availability of the 2017–
18 2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas
19 Leasing Proposed Final Program’ (81 Fed.
20 Reg. 84612 (November 23, 2016))).

21 “(5) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR DE-
22 FAULT SCHEDULE.—Upon the application of para-
23 graph (4), holding a lease sale under the replace-
24 ment schedule described in that paragraph shall not
25 require additional analysis under the National Envi-

1 ronmental Policy Act of 1969, and the environ-
2 mental reviews specified in section 4(a)(2) of the
3 BRIDGE Production Act of 2025 shall be deemed
4 sufficient to meet all requirements of the National
5 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for such lease
6 sales, lease issuances, and associated activities re-
7 quiring Federal authorization on such leases.

8 “(6) BID ACCEPTANCE AND LEASE ISSUANCE.—
9 If the Secretary receives an acceptable bid for any
10 tract offered in a lease sale held pursuant to the
11 schedule described under paragraph (4) (as deter-
12 mined under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
13 ment ‘Summary of Procedures for Determining Bid
14 Adequacy at Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Ef-
15 fective March 2016’), the Secretary shall issue a
16 lease for such tract not later than 90 days after the
17 date of the lease sale.”.

18 **SEC. 7. MINIMUM LEASE SALES.**

19 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
20 (43 U.S.C. 1344) is further amended by adding at the
21 end the following:

22 “(k) MINIMUM LEASE SALES.—

23 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning on January 1,
24 2035, the Secretary may only approve a leasing pro-
25 gram under this section if the leasing program pro-

vides for offering at least 15 offshore lease sales during a period of 5 years.

“(2) REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE.—If a court determines a leasing program under this section does not meet the requirement of paragraph (1), the following offshore lease sale schedule shall immediately replace such program as the operative leasing program under this section, notwithstanding any other provision of this section:

“(A) GULF OF AMERICA SALES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct 2 offshore lease sales each year in the Gulf of America region during the 5-year period of the replaced program, totaling 10 lease sales.

“(ii) ACREAGE.—For each lease sale under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall offer all unleased acres in the Gulf of America region, as identified in Figure S-1 of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published on November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (as announced in the notice of availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy

1 Management entitled ‘Notice of Availability
2 of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf
3 Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Pro-
4 gram’ (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
5 2016))).

6 “(iii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In
7 each lease sale under this subparagraph,
8 the Secretary shall offer the same lease
9 form, lease terms, economic conditions,
10 and stipulations as contained in the final
11 notice of sale titled ‘Gulf of Mexico Outer
12 Continental Shelf Region-Wide Oil and
13 Gas Lease Sale 254’ (85 Fed. Reg. 8010;
14 February 12, 2020), except that the net
15 royalty rate payable to the Federal Govern-
16 ment shall not exceed 18.75 percent.

17 “(iv) TIMING.—The Secretary shall
18 conduct the first lease sale under this sub-
19 paragraph by not later than 6 months
20 after the start of the 5-year period of the
21 replaced program, with subsequent sales
22 not later than every 7 months thereafter,
23 ensuring all sales are completed within the
24 5-year period.

1 “(B) ALASKA OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
2 SALES.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
4 shall conduct 5 region-wide offshore lease
5 sales on the Alaska outer Continental Shelf
6 during the 5-year period of the replaced
7 program.

8 “(ii) ACREAGE.—For each lease sale
9 under this subparagraph, the Secretary
10 shall offer all unleased acres across the
11 Alaska outer Continental Shelf, in the
12 areas identified in Figure 1–2 of the
13 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil
14 and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program
15 published on November 18, 2016, by the
16 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (as
17 announced in the notice of availability of
18 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
19 entitled ‘Notice of Availability of the
20 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil
21 and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program’
22 (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (November 23,
23 2016))).

24 “(iii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In
25 each lease sale under this subparagraph,

1 the Secretary shall offer the same lease
2 form, lease terms, economic conditions,
3 and stipulations as contained in the final
4 notice of sale entitled ‘Outer Continental
5 Shelf Cook Inlet, Alaska, Oil and Gas
6 Lease Sale 244’ (82 Fed. Reg. 23163; May
7 22, 2017), except that the net royalty rate
8 payable to the Federal Government shall
9 not exceed 16.75 percent.

10 “(iv) TIMING.—The Secretary shall
11 conduct the first lease sale under this sub-
12 paragraph by not later than 12 months
13 after the start of the 5-year period of the
14 replaced program, with subsequent sales
15 occurring not later than 11 months there-
16 after, ensuring all 5 sales are completed
17 within the 5-year period.

18 “(3) STREAMLINING PROVISIONS.—

19 “(A) ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY
20 EXEMPTIONS.—Holding lease sales under para-
21 graph (2) shall not require additional analysis
22 or compliance with the National Environmental
23 Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act
24 of 1973, the Coastal Zone Management Act of
25 1972, or any requirements for tribal consulta-

tion under Federal law. The environmental reviews specified in section 4(a)(2) of the BRIDGE Production Act of 2025, and the Biological Opinion specified in section 4(a)(1) of that Act, shall be deemed sufficient to meet all applicable Federal environmental and regulatory requirements for such lease sales, lease issuances, and associated activities requiring Federal authorization.

“(B) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may waive any requirement under this section that would delay holding a lease sale under paragraph (2).

“(C) BID ACCEPTANCE AND LEASE ISSUANCE.—If the Secretary receives an acceptable bid for any tract offered in a lease sale held pursuant to the schedule described in paragraph (2) (as determined under the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ‘Summary of Procedures for Determining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Effective March 2016’), the Secretary shall issue a lease for such tract not later than 90 days after the date of the lease sale.”.

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