

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 513

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Offshore Lands Au-
3 thorities Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. NULLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL WITHDRAWALS**
5 **OF UNLEASED OFFSHORE LAND.**

6 The following Presidential withdrawals of unleased
7 offshore land shall have no force or effect:

8 (1) The Presidential Memorandum of December
9 20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of
10 Certain Portions of the United States Arctic Outer
11 Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating
12 to the Chukchi Sea Planning Area and the Beaufort
13 Sea Planning Area).

14 (2) The Presidential Memorandum of December
15 16, 2014, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of
16 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-
17 nental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” (relating to
18 the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area).

19 (3) Section 3 of Executive Order 13754 (81
20 Fed. Reg. 90669; relating to Northern Bering Sea
21 climate resilience).

22 (4) Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13990 (86
23 Fed. Reg. 7037; relating to reinstating Executive
24 Order 13754 and the Presidential Memorandum of
25 December 20, 2016).

1 (5) The Presidential Memorandum of March
2 13, 2023, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of
3 Certain Areas off the United States Arctic Coast of
4 the Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Gas Leas-
5 ing” (relating to the Beaufort Planning Area).

6 (6) The Presidential Memorandum of December
7 20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of
8 Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer
9 Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating
10 to canyons and canyon complexes offshore the Atlan-
11 tic coast).

12 (7) The Presidential Memorandum of January
13 6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of
14 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-
15 nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-
16 lating to the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, and Pacific
17 areas).

18 (8) The Presidential Memorandum of January
19 6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of
20 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-
21 nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-
22 lating to the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resil-
23 ience Area).

1 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO**
2 **WITHDRAW UNLEASED OFFSHORE LANDS.**

3 Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
4 Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “(a)The President” and insert-
6 ing the following:

7 “(a) WITHDRAWAL OF UNLEASED LANDS BY THE
8 PRESIDENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graphs (2) and (3), the President”;

11 (2) by inserting “Beginning on the date of en-
12 actment of the Offshore Lands Authorities Act of
13 2025, the President shall transmit a withdrawal
14 made under the preceding sentence to the President
15 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives.” after “outer Continental Shelf.”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(A) ACRES.—A withdrawal under para-
20 graph (1) may not exceed an area larger than
21 150,000 acres in total or contiguous with any
22 other withdrawal under such paragraph.

23 “(B) PERIOD.—A withdrawal under para-
24 graph (1) may not be made for a period longer
25 than 20 years.

1 “(C) CUMULATIVE WITHDRAWALS.—No
2 President may, under paragraph (1), withdraw
3 more than 500,000 acres cumulatively without
4 obtaining Congressional approval.

5 “(3) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—The President
6 may not withdraw unleased lands of the outer Conti-
7 nental Shelf under paragraph (1) unless—

8 “(A) the Secretary completed a quan-
9 titative and qualitative geophysical and geologi-
10 cal mineral resource assessment of the lands to
11 be withdrawn during the 5-year period ending
12 on the date of such withdrawal;

13 “(B) the Secretary, in consultation with
14 the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of
15 Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and the Sec-
16 retary of Agriculture, completed an assessment
17 of the economic, energy, and national security
18 value of mineral deposits identified in the min-
19 eral resource assessment completed under sub-
20 paragraph (A);

21 “(C) the Secretary completed an assess-
22 ment of the expected reduction in future Fed-
23 eral revenues resulting from the proposed with-
24 drawal to the Treasury, States (including from
25 allocations made under section 105 of the Gulf

of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note)), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund; and

“(D) the Secretary submits to the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Armed Services, Energy and Natural Resources, and Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes the results of the assessments completed under this subsection.

“(4) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCEDURE.—

“(A) JOINT RESOLUTION DEFINED.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution, which may not have a preamble, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the withdrawal made under section 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act on _____, relating to _____, and such withdrawal shall have no

1 force or effect.’ (the blank spaces being appro-
2 priately filled in).

3 “(B) REFERRAL.—A joint resolution de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall be referred to
5 the committees in each House of Congress with
6 jurisdiction.

7 “(C) DISCHARGE.—In the Senate, if the
8 committee to which is referred a joint resolution
9 described in subparagraph (A) has not reported
10 such joint resolution (or a joint resolution
11 aimed at the same Presidential withdrawal) at
12 the end of 20 calendar days after the submis-
13 sion or introduction of legislation to disapprove
14 the withdrawal, such committee may be dis-
15 charged from further consideration of such joint
16 resolution and placed on the appropriate cal-
17 endar of the Senate upon a petition supported
18 in writing by 30 Members of the Senate.

19 “(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate,
21 when the committee to which a joint reso-
22 lution is referred has reported, or when a
23 committee is discharged (under subpara-
24 graph (C)) from further consideration of, a
25 joint resolution described in subparagraph

1 (A), it is at any time thereafter in order
2 (even though a previous motion to the
3 same effect has been disagreed to) for a
4 motion to proceed to the consideration of
5 the joint resolution, and all points of order
6 against the joint resolution (and against
7 consideration of joint resolution) are
8 waived. The motion is not subject to
9 amendment, to a motion to postpone, or to
10 a motion to proceed to the consideration of
11 other business. A motion to reconsider the
12 vote by which the motion is agreed to or
13 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a mo-
14 tion to proceed to the consideration of the
15 joint resolution is agreed to, the joint reso-
16 lution shall remain the unfinished business
17 of the Senate until disposed of.

18 “(ii) DEBATE.—In the Senate, debate
19 on the joint resolution, and on all debat-
20 able motions and appeals in connection
21 therewith, shall be limited to not more
22 than 10 hours, which shall be divided
23 equally between those favoring and those
24 opposing the resolution. A motion further
25 to limit debate is in order and not debat-

1 able. An amendment to, or a motion to
2 postpone, or a motion to proceed to the
3 consideration of other business, or a mo-
4 tion to recommit the resolution is not in
5 order.

6 “(iii) FINAL PASSAGE.—In the Sen-
7 ate, immediately following the conclusion
8 of the debate on a resolution described in
9 subparagraph (A), and a single quorum
10 call at the conclusion of the debate if re-
11 quested in accordance with the rules of the
12 Senate, the vote on final passage of the
13 resolution shall occur.

14 “(iv) APPEALS.—In the Senate, ap-
15 peals from the decisions of the Chair relat-
16 ing to the application of the rules of the
17 Senate to the procedure relating to a reso-
18 lution described in subparagraph (A) shall
19 be decided without debate.

20 “(v) TREATMENT IF OTHER HOUSE
21 HAS ACTED.—If, before the passage by one
22 House of a resolution of that House de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (A), that House
24 receives from the other House a resolution

described in subparagraph (A), then the following procedures shall apply:

“(I) NONREFERRAL.—The resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(II) FINAL PASSAGE.—With respect to a resolution described in subparagraph (A) of the House receiving the resolution—

“(aa) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no resolution had been received from the other House; but

“(bb) the vote on final passage shall be on the resolution of the other House.

“(vi) DEBATE ON VETO MESSAGE.—In the Senate, debate on a veto message from the President on a joint resolution described in subparagraph (A), including all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, equally divided between those favoring and those opposing the resolution. A motion further to limit

1 debate is in order and not debatable. No
2 amendment to the veto message shall be in
3 order. The vote on passage of the joint res-
4 olution following the veto message shall
5 occur immediately following the conclusion
6 of debate.

7 “(E) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Sub-
8 paragraphs (A) through (D) are enacted by
9 Congress—

10 “(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking
11 power of the Senate and the House of Rep-
12 resentatives, respectively, and as such it is
13 deemed a part of the rules of each House,
14 respectively, but applicable only with re-
15 spect to procedure to be followed in this
16 paragraph, and it supersedes other rules
17 only to the extent that it is inconsistent
18 with such rules; and

19 “(ii) with full recognition of the con-
20 stitutional right of either House to change
21 the rules (so far as relating to the proce-
22 dure of that House) at any time, in the
23 same manner, and to the same extent as in
24 the case of any other rule of that House.

1 “(F) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINUANCE;
2 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITHDRAWALS.—

3 “(i) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINU-
4 ANCE.—A withdrawal made under section
5 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf
6 Lands Act shall not take effect (or con-
7 tinue), if the Congress enacts a joint reso-
8 lution of disapproval, described under sub-
9 paragraph (A), of the withdrawal.

10 “(ii) SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITH-
11 DRAWALS.—A withdrawal that does not
12 take effect (or does not continue) under
13 clause (i) may not be reissued in substan-
14 tially the same form, and a new withdrawal
15 that is substantially the same as such a
16 withdrawal may not be issued, unless the
17 reissued or new withdrawal is specifically
18 authorized by a law enacted after the date
19 of the joint resolution disapproving the
20 original withdrawal.

21 “(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No determina-
22 tion, finding, action, or omission under this
23 paragraph shall be subject to judicial review.

24 “(H) SUBMISSION OF COVERED AGENCY
25 ACTION TO CONGRESS.—

1 “(i) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT.—Any
2 covered agency action subject to the dis-
3 approval procedures under this subsection
4 shall be submitted to Congress by the
5 agency responsible for the action. Such
6 submission must include the text of the
7 agency action, a concise summary of the
8 action, and the date on which the action
9 was taken.

10 “(ii) TRANSMITTAL.—For purposes of
11 this subsection, the date of submission of
12 the covered agency action to Congress shall
13 be the later of—

14 “(I) the date on which the agen-
15 cy submits the action to both the
16 President of the Senate and the
17 Speaker of the House of Representa-
18 tives; or

19 “(II) the date on which the agen-
20 cy makes the action publicly available
21 in the Federal Register or by another
22 publicly accessible method.

23 “(iii) START OF PROCEDURES.—The
24 submission of the covered agency action
25 under clause (i) shall trigger the expedited

1 parliamentary procedures set forth in this
2 subsection. No resolution under this sub-
3 section may be considered in either cham-
4 ber until such submission has occurred.

5 “(iv) NOTICE OF SUBMISSION.—Upon
6 receipt of a covered agency action, the
7 President of the Senate and the Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives shall cause a
9 notice of such submission to be published
10 in the Congressional Record on the next
11 calendar day of their respective chambers.

12 “(5) INTEGRATION WITH 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS
13 LEASING PROGRAM.—The President may not make a
14 withdrawal under paragraph (1) that conflicts with
15 areas included in a lease sale scheduled under an oil
16 and gas leasing program approved under Section
17 18.”.

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