

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1274

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

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 “Protecting American
5 Households From Rising Energy Costs Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) PETROLEUM PRODUCT.—The term “petro-
9 leum product” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 3 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act
2 (42 U.S.C. 6202).

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Energy.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON EXPORTS OF LIQUEFIED NAT-**
6 **URAL GAS AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO**
7 **CERTAIN COUNTRIES.**

8 (a) PROHIBITIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
10 provision of law, unless a waiver has been issued
11 under subsection (b), no person or entity may export
12 or resell, either directly or indirectly through 1 or
13 more third parties, liquefied natural gas or petro-
14 leum products—

15 (A) to any entity operating in the territory
16 of, or territory owned by, the People’s Republic
17 of China (or the Chinese Communist Party),
18 the Russian Federation, the Democratic Peo-
19 ple’s Republic of Korea, or the Islamic Republic
20 of Iran; or

21 (B) to any entity that is under the owner-
22 ship or control, as determined by the Secretary
23 in consultation with the Secretary of the Treas-
24 ury and the Secretary of Commerce, of the Peo-
25 ple’s Republic of China (or the Chinese Com-

1 munist Party), the Russian Federation, the
2 Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the
3 Islamic Republic of Iran.

4 (2) RESPONSIBILITY.—It is the responsibility of
5 the export authorization holder to ensure compliance
6 with this Act and any other applicable law or policy,
7 including rules, regulations, orders, and other deter-
8 minations made by—

9 (A) the Office of Foreign Assets Control of
10 the Department of the Treasury; and

11 (B) the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-
12 mission.

13 (b) WAIVER.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—On application by an ex-
15 porter, the Secretary may waive, prior to the date of
16 the applicable contract, the prohibitions described in
17 subsection (a) with respect to the sale of liquefied
18 natural gas or petroleum products.

19 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may issue a
20 waiver under this subsection only if the Secretary
21 determines that an imminent and acute national se-
22 curity emergency to the United States exists and
23 that other means of responding to the emergency
24 would be inadequate.

1 (3) APPLICATIONS.—An exporter seeking a
 2 waiver under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-
 3 retary an application by such date, in such form,
 4 and containing such information as the Secretary
 5 may require.

6 (4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15
 7 days after issuing a waiver under this subsection,
 8 the Secretary shall provide a copy of the waiver to
 9 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of
 10 the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Com-
 11 merce of the House of Representatives.

12 (c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary may promulgate,
 13 amend, and rescind rules and regulations, as the Secretary
 14 determines to be appropriate, to carry out this Act.

15 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

16 (a) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for a per-
 17 son to violate, attempt to violate, conspire to violate, or
 18 cause a violation of any prohibition of, or any waiver, li-
 19 cense, order, or regulation issued pursuant to this Act.

20 (b) CIVIL PENALTY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may impose a
 22 civil penalty on any person who commits an unlawful
 23 act described in subsection (a) in an amount not to
 24 exceed the greater of—

25 (A) \$250,000,000; and

1 (B) an amount that is twice the amount of
2 the transaction that is the basis of the violation
3 with respect to which the penalty is imposed.

4 (2) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEAR-
5 ING.—A civil penalty under paragraph (1) may be
6 imposed by the Secretary by an order made on the
7 record after providing written notice to the person to
8 be assessed the civil penalty and an opportunity for
9 a hearing in accordance with this section and sec-
10 tions 554 through 557 of title 5, United States
11 Code.

12 (3) CIVIL ACTION.—If a person described in
13 paragraph (1) fails to pay a civil penalty imposed by
14 the Secretary under this subsection after receiving
15 notice and an opportunity for a hearing under para-
16 graph (2), the Secretary may bring a civil action
17 against that person in an appropriate district court
18 of the United States.

19 (4) RELIEF.—If a civil action brought by the
20 Secretary under paragraph (3) is successful, the ap-
21 plicable court may grant appropriate relief, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) a temporary injunction;

24 (B) a permanent injunction; and

1 (C) enforcing the civil penalties described
2 in paragraph (1).

3 (c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly
4 commits, knowingly attempts to commit, or knowingly
5 conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission
6 of, an unlawful act described in subsection (a) shall be
7 fined not more than \$100,000,000, imprisoned for not
8 more than 20 years, or both.

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