

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 655

To amend the Helium Act to ensure continued access to helium for holders of Federal research grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Helium Act to ensure continued access to helium for holders of Federal research grants, 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 “Securing Helium for
5 Science Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Helium Act (50
8 U.S.C. 167d) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “(e)”
2 and inserting “(f)”;

3 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “(e)”
4 and inserting “(f)”;

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PURCHASER.—The
7 Secretary may not sell the Federal Helium Reserve
8 unless the purchaser agrees to be subject to the
9 same requirements as the Secretary under sub-
10 section (e), except that such requirements shall not
11 terminate until the end of the 8-year period de-
12 scribed in subsection (e)(1).”;

13 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
14 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

15 (3) by inserting the following after subsection
16 (d):

17 “(e) PHASE E: CONTINUED ACCESS FOR RESEARCH-
18 ERS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
20 graph (3), during the 8-year period beginning on the
21 earlier of September 30, 2022, or the date on which
22 the Secretary ends sales of helium under subsection
23 (c), the Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale
24 to holders of a Federal research grant in quantities
25 not to exceed 30 million cubic feet of crude helium

1 annually, at such times and under such terms and
2 conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate.

3 “(2) PRICE.—

4 “(A) FIRST YEAR.—During the 1-year pe-
5 riod beginning on the date of the first sale of
6 helium under paragraph (1), the price of helium
7 sold under such paragraph shall be 5 percent
8 higher than the price of the most recent sale of
9 helium under subsection (c).

10 “(B) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The Secretary
11 shall increase the price of helium offered under
12 this paragraph by 5 percent in each subsequent
13 year in which sales occur under this subsection.

14 “(3) TERMINATION.—The requirements of this
15 subsection shall not apply to the Secretary beginning
16 on the date that a purchaser of the Federal Helium
17 Reserve that has agreed to be subject to the require-
18 ments of this subsection assumes control of such
19 Federal Helium Reserve.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(c) of the
21 Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167a(c)) is amended by striking
22 “6(e)” and inserting “6(f)”.

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