

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7298

To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report on expressions of interest and applications for permits to drill, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the publication of data on expressions of interest and applications for permits to drill, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2022

Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. CARL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEWART, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. BENTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report on expressions of interest and applications for permits to drill, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the publication of data on expressions of interest and applications for permits to drill, 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 “Promoting Energy
5 Independence and Transparency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST; APPLICATIONS FOR**
2 **PERMITS TO DRILL.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date
4 of enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior
5 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
7 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that
8 describes—

9 (1) the status of nominated parcels for future
10 onshore oil and gas lease sales, including—

11 (A) the number of expressions of interest
12 that the Bureau of Land Management has not
13 taken any action to review, or not completed re-
14 view of, as of the date of enactment of this sec-
15 tion; and

16 (B) how long such expressions of interest
17 have been pending;

18 (2) the status of each pending application for a
19 permit to drill in each Bureau of Land Management
20 State office as of the date of enactment of this sec-
21 tion, including—

22 (A) a description of the cause of delay for
23 outstanding applications, including as a result
24 of staffing shortages, technical limitations, in-
25 complete applications, and incomplete review
26 pursuant to the National Environmental Policy

1 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or other
2 applicable laws;

3 (B) the number of days a permit has been
4 outstanding in violation of section 17(p)(2) of
5 the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2));
6 and

7 (C) steps the office is taking to come into
8 compliance with the requirements of section
9 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
10 226(p)(2));

11 (3) the number of applications for a permit to
12 drill issued by each Bureau of Land Management
13 State office as of the date of enactment of this sec-
14 tion;

15 (4) how the Bureau of Land Management de-
16 termines whether to—

17 (A) issue a permit to drill; and

18 (B) issue, extend, or suspend an oil and
19 gas lease;

20 (5) when determinations described in paragraph
21 (4) are sent to the national office of the Bureau of
22 Land Management for final approval; and

23 (6) the degree to which the Bureau of Land
24 Management field offices exercise discretion on such
25 final approval.

1 (b) PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO
2 DRILL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enact-
3 ment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall
4 issue all pending applications for a permit to drill that
5 meet the requirements of section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral
6 Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)).

7 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—Section 17 of
8 the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

10 “(q) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

11 “(1) EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.—Not later
12 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this
13 subsection, and each month thereafter, the Secretary
14 of the Interior shall publish on the website of the
15 Department of the Interior the number of pending,
16 approved, and not approved expressions of interest
17 in nominated parcels for future onshore oil and gas
18 lease sales in the preceding month.

19 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—
20 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
21 of this subsection, and each month thereafter, the
22 Secretary of the Interior shall publish on the website
23 of the Department of the Interior the number of

- 1 pending and approved applications for permits to
- 2 drill in the preceding month.”.

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