

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8176

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue decisions on applications for permits to drill that have been frozen in contravention of the spirit of such Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2022

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ROSE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. BIGGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue decisions on applications for permits to drill that have been frozen in contravention of the spirit of such Act, 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 “Unleash American
5 Drilling Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINERAL LEASING ACT.**

7 Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
8 226(p)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
2 graph (4); and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(3) DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON PERMITS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 issue a decision on a permit not later than 90
8 days after the applicant for a permit has sub-
9 mitted a complete application if the Secretary—

10 “(i) has not yet issued or deferred the
11 permit under paragraph (2) within the 30-
12 day period specified in such paragraph; or

13 “(ii) has deferred the permit under
14 paragraph (2)(B), and there are no steps
15 the applicant is required to take for the
16 permit to be issued pursuant to paragraph
17 (2)(B)(i).

18 “(B) MANDATORY ISSUANCE.—If the Sec-
19 retary does not issue a decision under subpara-
20 graph (A) within the 90-day period specified in
21 such subparagraph, the permit shall be consid-
22 ered issued.”.

1 **SEC. 3. BLM REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PERMITTING BACK-**
2 **LOG.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit
5 to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and
6 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
8 a report on the backlog of applications for permits to drill,
9 including—

10 (1) the extent of the backlog;

11 (2) reasons for the backlog, including—

12 (A) limitations on resources; and

13 (B) statutory and administrative barriers
14 to clearing the backlog;

15 (3) steps the Bureau of Land Management can
16 take to clear the backlog; and

17 (4) recommendations to Congress for financial
18 assistance or statutory actions to help clear the
19 backlog.

○