

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6927

To immediately resume onshore oil and gas lease sales, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2022

Ms. HERRELL (for herself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. BENTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To immediately resume onshore oil and gas lease sales, 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 “American Energy Se-  
5 curity and Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT TO IMMEDIATELY RESUME ON-  
8 SHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
2           rior shall immediately resume oil and gas lease sales  
3           in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30  
4           U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act for Ac-  
5           quired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), and any other  
6           applicable onshore mineral leasing laws.

7           (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
8           rior shall ensure that any oil and gas lease sale  
9           made pursuant to paragraph (1) is conducted imme-  
10          diately on completion of all applicable scoping, public  
11          comment, and environmental analysis requirements  
12          under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et  
13          seq.) and the National Environmental Policy Act of  
14          1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

15         (b) ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—

16                 (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Min-  
17                 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Min-  
18                 eral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351  
19                 et seq.), and any other applicable onshore mineral  
20                 leasing laws, beginning in fiscal year 2022, the Sec-  
21                 retary of the Interior shall conduct a minimum of  
22                 four oil and gas lease sales annually in each of the  
23                 following States:

24                         (A) Wyoming.

25                         (B) New Mexico.

1 (C) Colorado.

2 (D) Utah.

3 (E) Montana.

4 (F) North Dakota.

5 (G) Oklahoma.

6 (H) Nevada.

7 (I) Any other State in which there is land  
8 available for oil and gas leasing under the Min-  
9 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the  
10 Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30  
11 U.S.C. 351 et seq.), and any other applicable  
12 onshore mineral leasing laws.

13 (2) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting a lease sale  
14 under paragraph (1) in a State described in that  
15 paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer  
16 all parcels eligible for oil and gas development under  
17 the resource management plan in effect for the  
18 State.

19 (3) REPLACEMENT SALES.—If, for any reason,  
20 a lease sale under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year is  
21 canceled, delayed, or deferred, including for a lack of  
22 eligible parcels, the Secretary of the Interior shall  
23 conduct a replacement sale during the same fiscal  
24 year.

1       (c) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS AND  
2 COMMUNICATIONS.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
5 of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on En-  
6 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the  
7 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of  
8 Representatives all documents and communications  
9 relating to the comprehensive review of Federal oil  
10 and gas permitting and leasing practices required  
11 under section 208 of Executive Order 14008 (86  
12 Fed. Reg. 7624; relating to tackling the climate cri-  
13 sis at home and abroad).

14          (2) INCLUSIONS.—The submission under para-  
15 graph (1) shall include all documents and commu-  
16 nications submitted to the Secretary of the Interior  
17 by members of the public in response to any public  
18 meeting or forum relating to the comprehensive re-  
19 view described in that paragraph.

20       (d) REPORT.—

21           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
22 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
23 of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on  
24 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
2 sources of the Senate a report that describes—

3 (A) the status of nominated parcels for fu-  
4 ture onshore oil and gas lease sales, including—

5 (i) the number of expressions of inter-  
6 est that the Bureau of Land Management  
7 has not taken any action to review, or not  
8 completed review of, as of the date of en-  
9 actment of this section; and

10 (ii) how long such expressions of in-  
11 terest have been pending;

12 (B) the status of each pending application  
13 for a permit to drill in each Bureau of Land  
14 Management State office as of the date of en-  
15 actment of this section;

16 (C) the number of applications for a per-  
17 mit to drill issued by each Bureau of Land  
18 Management State office as of the date of en-  
19 actment of this section;

20 (D) how the Bureau of Land Management  
21 determines whether to—

22 (i) issue a permit to drill; and

23 (ii) issue, extend, or suspend an oil  
24 and gas lease;

1 (E) when determinations described in sub-  
2 paragraph (D) are sent to the national office of  
3 the Bureau of Land Management for final ap-  
4 proval; and

5 (F) the degree to which Bureau of Land  
6 Management field offices exercise discretion on  
7 such final approval.

8 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

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

18 (B) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO  
19 DRILL.—Not later than 30 days after the date  
20 of enactment of this section, and each month  
21 thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall  
22 publish on the website of the Department of the  
23 Interior the number of pending and approved  
24 applications for permits to drill in the preceding  
25 month.

1       (e) PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO  
2 DRILL.—Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30  
3 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5               “(4) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTION ON  
6 PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO  
7 DRILL.—The Secretary may not delay processing an  
8 application for a permit to drill under a valid exist-  
9 ing lease on the basis that there is a pending civil  
10 action, unless and until a court determines the lease  
11 was not issued in compliance with the National En-  
12 vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
13 seq.).”.

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