

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1559

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2023

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands 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 “More Energy More  
5 Jobs Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE NEW FIVE-YEAR OIL AND**  
2 **GAS LEASING PROGRAM.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW  
4 LEASING PROGRAMS.—Section 18(c) of the Outer Conti-  
5 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as  
7 paragraphs (5) and (6); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—In pre-  
11 paring each leasing program under this section, the  
12 Secretary shall—

13 “(A) allow the Governor of a coastal State  
14 to nominate for leasing under such program  
15 areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are  
16 adjacent to the waters of that State;

17 “(B) include each area nominated under  
18 subparagraph (A) in the draft leasing program  
19 under this section and consider leasing of such  
20 areas as an additional or alternative Federal ac-  
21 tion; and

22 “(C) include the established program re-  
23 source estimates that are available, and develop  
24 resource estimates for the areas for which such  
25 data are not available including for the areas  
26 nominated under subparagraph (A).

1           “(3) INCLUSION OF STATE-NOMINATED  
2 AREAS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
4 include in the final program issued under this  
5 section each area nominated by a State under  
6 paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines that  
7 development in such area will best meet na-  
8 tional energy needs and is consistent with the  
9 principles set forth in subsection (a).

10           “(B) REPORT.—If the Secretary omits any  
11 area nominated under paragraph (2), the Sec-  
12 retary shall submit to the Governor that nomi-  
13 nated the area and the Committee on Natural  
14 Resources of the House of Representatives a re-  
15 port detailing why oil and gas development in  
16 such area do not best meet national energy  
17 needs and is not consistent with the principles  
18 set forth in subsection (a).

19           “(C) ALTERNATIVE VIEWS.—After sub-  
20 mittal of the report required by subparagraph  
21 (B), each such Governor shall be provided 60  
22 days within which to offer alternative views on  
23 why the Secretary’s findings are not consistent  
24 with the principles set forth in subsection (a).

1           “(4) NOTICE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAN.—  
2           The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register  
3           a notice of the effectiveness of each oil and gas leas-  
4           ing program issued under this section on the date  
5           such program takes effect.”.

6 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO REGION.**

7           Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
8           (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by adding at the end the  
9           following:

10          “(j) ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO RE-  
11          GION.—

12                 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13                         “(A) CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-  
14                         NING AREA.—The term ‘Central Gulf of Mexico  
15                         Planning Area’ has the meaning given the term  
16                         ‘Central Planning Area’ in section 102 of the  
17                         Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006  
18                         (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–432).

19                         “(B) WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-  
20                         NING AREA.—The term ‘Western Gulf of Mex-  
21                         ico Planning Area’ means the Western Gulf of  
22                         Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental  
23                         Shelf, as designated in the document entitled  
24                         ‘2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and

1 Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program’ and  
2 dated January 2015.

3 “(2) ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding  
4 any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year  
5 2023, the Secretary shall hold a minimum of 2 re-  
6 gion-wide lease sales annually in the Gulf of Mexico  
7 pursuant to this Act, each of which shall include  
8 areas in—

9 “(A) the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning  
10 Area; and

11 “(B) the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning  
12 Area.

13 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
15 lease sales under paragraph (2), the Secretary  
16 shall issue leases to the highest responsible  
17 qualified bidder or bidders.

18 “(B) AREAS INCLUDED IN LEASE SALES.—  
19 In carrying out the lease sales under paragraph  
20 (2), the Secretary shall include in each lease  
21 sale all unleased areas that are not subject to  
22 restrictions as of the date of the lease sale.

23 “(4) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each  
25 lease sale required under paragraph (2), the

1 Secretary shall conduct any environmental re-  
2 view required by the National Environmental  
3 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

4 “(B) TIMELINE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RE-  
5 VIEW.—

6 “(i) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall  
7 complete an environmental review con-  
8 ducted pursuant to subparagraph (A) not  
9 later than—

10 “(I) with respect to an environ-  
11 mental assessment, 1 year after the  
12 date on which the Secretary issues a  
13 notice of intent to prepare such envi-  
14 ronmental assessment; and

15 “(II) with respect to an environ-  
16 mental impact statement, 2 years  
17 after the date on which the Secretary  
18 issues a notice of intent to prepare  
19 such environmental impact statement.

20 “(ii) ADJUSTMENT OF TIMELINE.—An  
21 entity that is issued a lease pursuant to a  
22 lease sale under paragraph (2) may enter  
23 into—

24 “(I) 1 or more agreements with  
25 the Secretary to extend a deadline de-

1 scribed in clause (i) by not more than  
2 6 months for each such agreement;  
3 and

4 “(II) an agreement with the Sec-  
5 retary to otherwise adjust any dead-  
6 line under this subparagraph.

7 “(k) PERMITTING.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sovereign con-  
9 tracting rights and obligations, the Secretary shall  
10 review and grant or deny in accordance with para-  
11 graph (2) any application for a permit or other ap-  
12 proval for offshore oil and natural gas exploration,  
13 development, and production activities under a lease  
14 issued pursuant to this Act by not later than the  
15 earlier of—

16 “(A) 75 calendar days after the date on  
17 which the application is received by the Bureau  
18 of Ocean Energy Management or the Bureau of  
19 Safety and Environmental Enforcement; or

20 “(B) any other applicable deadline re-  
21 quired by Federal law.

22 “(2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Absent clear grounds  
24 for denial of an application for a permit or

1 other approval described in paragraph (1), the  
2 Secretary shall grant the permit or approval.

3 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary de-  
4 nies an application for a permit or other ap-  
5 proval under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
6 shall provide to the applicant written notice ex-  
7 plaining the grounds for the denial.”.

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