

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2834

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2009

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

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States.

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. TECHNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SURVEY, AND**  
4 **STUDY OF DEEP SEABED MINERALS.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Administrator of the Na-  
6 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in con-

1 sultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal  
2 agencies, shall conduct—

3           (1) an assessment of all available domestic tech-  
4 nological capabilities required for the location and  
5 the efficient and environmentally sound recovery of  
6 minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the  
7 shallow and deep seabed of the United States;

8           (2) a survey of the shallow and deep seabed of  
9 the United States to identify sites for the recovery  
10 of such minerals; and

11           (3) an economic feasibility study on the recov-  
12 ery of such minerals.

13       (b) REPORT.—No later than 2 years after the date  
14 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit  
15 a report to Congress containing the findings and rec-  
16 ommendations of the assessment, survey, and study under  
17 this section.

18       (c) DEFINITION.—In this section the term “shallow  
19 and deep seabed of the United States”—

20           (1) means areas of the seabed that are contig-  
21 uous to and within 200 miles of the territorial sea  
22 of the United States and the resources of which are  
23 subject to its jurisdiction or control; and

24           (2) includes such areas that are contiguous to  
25 and within 200 miles of the territorial sea around

1 any inhabited and uninhabited territory or posses-  
2 sion of the United States including American  
3 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
4 Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,  
5 Midway Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,  
6 Palau, Marshall Islands, Midway Islands, Wake Is-  
7 land, Johnston Atoll, Baker, Howland, and Jarvis  
8 Islands, Kingman Reef, Navassa Island, Serranilla  
9 Bank, Bajo Nuevo Bank, and Palmyra Atoll.

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