

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 356

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a minimum number of oil and gas lease sales in certain areas, to prevent delays in oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2023

Mr. CARL (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GUEST, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. LETLOW, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a minimum number of oil and gas lease sales in certain areas, to prevent delays in oil and gas leasing, 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 “Unleashing American
5 Energy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.**

2 (a) GULF OF MEXICO REGION ANNUAL LEASE
3 SALES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, be-
4 ginning in fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of the Interior
5 shall annually conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and
6 gas lease sales in the following planning areas of the Gulf
7 of Mexico region, as described in the 2017–2022 Outer
8 Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final
9 Program (November 2016):

10 (1) The Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

11 (2) The Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

12 (b) ALASKA REGION ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Not-
13 withstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fis-
14 cal year 2023, the Secretary of the Interior shall annually
15 conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and gas lease
16 sales in the Alaska region of the Outer Continental Shelf,
17 as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf
18 Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November
19 2016).

20 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting lease sales
21 under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary of the Inte-
22 rior shall—

23 (1) issue such leases in accordance with the
24 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332
25 et seq.); and

1 (2) include in each such lease sale all unleased
2 areas that are not subject to restrictions as of the
3 date of the lease sale.

4 (d) OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING DELAYS.—
5 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43
6 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence of the
8 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
9 sections (c) and (d) of this section” and inserting
10 “this section”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i)
12 as subsections (g) through (j), respectively; and

13 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(f) UNREASONABLE DELAYS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall not,
17 through Executive order or any other administrative
18 procedure, unreasonably pause, cancel, delay, defer,
19 or otherwise impede or circumvent any Federal en-
20 ergy mineral leasing processes under this Act, or a
21 related rulemaking process required by subchapter II
22 of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States
23 Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Pro-
24 cedure Act’), without congressional approval.

1 “(2) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—There shall
2 be a rebuttable presumption that any attempt by the
3 President to pause, cancel, delay, defer, or otherwise
4 impede or circumvent any Federal energy mineral
5 leasing process, or a related rulemaking process, de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1), without congressional ap-
7 proval, is considered unreasonable for purposes of
8 paragraph (1).”.

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