

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6087

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2018

Ms. CHENEY (for herself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, 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 “Removing Barriers to  
5 Energy Independence Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST PROCESS REFORM.**

7 Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
8 226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(q) PROTEST FILING FEE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before processing any pro-  
3 test filed under this section, the Secretary shall col-  
4 lect a filing fee from the protestor to recover the  
5 cost for processing documents filed for each adminis-  
6 trative protest.

7 “(2) AMOUNT.—The filing fee shall be cal-  
8 culated as follows:

9 “(A) For each protest filed in a submission  
10 not exceeding 10 pages in length, the base filing  
11 fee shall be \$150.

12 “(B) For each submission exceeding 10  
13 pages in length, an addition to the base filling  
14 fee, an assessment of \$5 per page in excess of  
15 10 pages shall apply.

16 “(C) For protests that include more than  
17 one oil and gas lease parcel, right-of-way, or ap-  
18 plication for permit to drill in a submission, an  
19 additional assessment of \$10 per additional  
20 lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for  
21 permit to drill shall apply.

22 “(3) ADJUSTMENT.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January  
24 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
25 shall adjust the filing fees established in this

1 subsection to whole dollar amounts to reflect  
2 changes in the Producer Price Index, as pub-  
3 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for  
4 the previous 12 months.

5 “(B) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED FILING  
6 FEES.—At least 30 days before the filling fees  
7 as adjusted under this paragraph take effect,  
8 the Secretary of the Interior shall publish noti-  
9 fication of the adjustment of such fees in the  
10 Federal Register.”.

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