

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9759

To authorize the establishment of a program to combat oil theft in the Permian Basin.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize the establishment of a program to combat oil theft in the Permian Basin.

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 “Protect the Permian
5 Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PERMIAN BASIN OIL THEFT TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Federal Bu-
8 reau of Investigations is authorized to establish a program
9 to combat oil theft in the Permian Basin to be carried

1 out through the Permian Basin Oil Theft Task Force
2 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “task force”).

3 (b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program es-
4 tablished pursuant to subsection (a), the Director of the
5 Federal Bureau of Investigations shall coordinate with the
6 heads of relevant State, local, and Tribal law enforcement
7 organizations.

8 (c) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall consist of
9 not fewer than 3 employees of the Federal Bureau of In-
10 vestigation, one of whom shall be the head of the task
11 force, and may include such local, State, and tribal law
12 enforcement partners as the Director of the Federal Bu-
13 reau of Investigation determines appropriate.

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
15 of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the task
16 force shall submit to the President and relevant congres-
17 sional committees a report on all task force activities, in-
18 cluding—

19 (1) the number of criminal charges brought and
20 convictions resulting from the task force’s activities;
21 and

22 (2) a detailed account of all funds obligated for
23 task force operational and administrative costs.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
3 section.

4 (f) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For
5 purposes of this section, the term “relevant congressional
6 committees” means—

7 (1) the Committee on Appropriations of the
8 Senate;

9 (2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
10 ate;

11 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
12 House of Representatives; and

13 (4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 **SEC. 3. ENHANCING CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

16 (a) INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN SHIPMENTS BY CAR-
17 RIER; STATE PROSECUTIONS.—Section 659 of title 18,
18 United States Code, is amended—

19 (1) by inserting after “pipeline system” the fol-
20 lowing: “or oil refinery or related asset”;

21 (2) by striking “one year” and inserting “5
22 years”; and

23 (3) by striking “10 years” and inserting “15
24 years”.

1 (b) TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN GOODS, SECURI-
2 TIES, MONEYS, FRAUDULENT STATE TAX STAMPS, OR
3 ARTICLES USED IN COUNTERFEITING.—Section 2314 of
4 such title is amended—

5 (1) by inserting after “goods, wares, merchan-
6 dise,” the following: “oil, pipeline, oil and gas equip-
7 ment or technology,”;

8 (2) by striking “one year” and inserting “5
9 years”; and

10 (3) by striking “ten years” and inserting “15
11 years”.

12 (c) SALE OR RECEIPT OF STOLEN GOODS, SECURI-
13 TIES, MONEYS, OR FRAUDULENT STATE TAX STAMPS.—
14 Section 2315 of such title is amended by striking “ten
15 years” and inserting “15 years”.

16 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USE OF BYRNE JAG**
17 **FUNDS.**

18 Section 501(a)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
19 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)(1)) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(J) Programs to reduce or combat oil
22 theft and related crimes (including theft of
23 pipes, technology, equipment, or other assets re-
24 lated to oil refineries or pipelines).”.