

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3488

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal a provision relating to the suspension, waiver, or reduction of rents or royalties by the Secretary of the Interior to promote development or operation, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the Secretary to reduce or eliminate certain royalties and net profit shares, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2020

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal a provision relating to the suspension, waiver, or reduction of rents or royalties by the Secretary of the Interior to promote development or operation, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the Secretary to reduce or eliminate certain royalties and net profit shares, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. REPEAL OF PROVISION OF THE MINERAL LEAS-**  
2 **ING ACT RELATING TO THE SUSPENSION,**  
3 **WAIVER, OR REDUCTION OF RENTS OR ROY-**  
4 **ALTIES BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTE-**  
5 **RIOR TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OR OPER-**  
6 **ATION.**

7 (a) REPEAL.—Section 39 of the Mineral Leasing Act  
8 (30 U.S.C. 209) is repealed.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) Section 8721(b) of title 10, United States  
11 Code, is amended by striking “202–209” and insert-  
12 ing “202–208”.

13 (2) Section 8735(a) of title 10, United States  
14 Code, is amended by striking “202–209” and insert-  
15 ing “202–208”.

16 (3) Section 31(h) of the Mineral Leasing Act  
17 (30 U.S.C. 188(h)) is amended by striking “and the  
18 provisions of section 39 of this Act”.

19 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE SEC-**  
20 **RETARY TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE CERTAIN**  
21 **ROYALTIES AND NET PROFIT SHARES UNDER**  
22 **THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS**  
23 **ACT.**

24 Section 8(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
25 Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)) is amended by striking para-  
26 graph (3) and inserting the following:

1           “(3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF SEC-  
2           RETARY TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE CERTAIN ROYAL-  
3           TIES OR NET PROFIT SHARES.—Notwithstanding  
4           any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may  
5           not reduce or eliminate any royalty or net profit  
6           share established under a lease.”.

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