

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2375

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to identify high-potential oil and gas leases located on Federal land, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to identify high-potential oil and gas leases located on Federal land, 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 “Facilitating American
5 Security Through Energy Resources Act” or the “FAST-
6 ER Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

9 (1) The Obama Administration has restricted
10 access to potential onshore Federal energy resources.

1 (2) The non-partisan Congressional Research
2 Service reported that the combined recoverable oil,
3 natural gas, and coal resources of the United States
4 is 1,300,000,000,000 barrels of oil equivalent, the
5 largest barrel equivalent in the world, much of which
6 is located on Federal lands.

7 (3) In 2008 there were 2,416 new oil and nat-
8 ural gas leases issued on Bureau of Land Manage-
9 ment land and 2,600,000 acres leased. In 2010,
10 under the Obama Administration, the number of
11 new leases issued dropped to 1,308 and the number
12 of acres leased dropped to 1,300,000.

13 (4) Oil and natural gas jobs pay an average sal-
14 ary of \$84,500 and are important sources of oppor-
15 tunity to rural communities, yet the Western Energy
16 Alliance estimates that 16,200 jobs have been pre-
17 vented in the American West due to policies that re-
18 strict energy resource development on public lands.

19 (5) After the Internal Revenue Service, the oil
20 and natural gas industry is the second largest source
21 of Federal revenue. The industry averages a 40:1 re-
22 turn on royalties and leasing revenue for every dollar
23 spent on administering Federal oil and natural gas
24 programs. These revenues and royalties not only
25 help balance the Federal budget, but are shared with

1 states, and assist in funding of education, infra-
2 structure, and public safety.

3 (6) Increasing oil and natural gas production by
4 the equivalent 1,000,000 barrels a day would gen-
5 erate 225,000 jobs, \$36,300,000,000 in gross do-
6 mestic product, and \$3,900,000,000 in revenue and
7 royalties.

8 (7) In 2007, the Energy Information Adminis-
9 tration projected that the 2010 total oil production
10 on Federal lands would be 850,000,000 barrels,
11 while current production on Federal lands is
12 714,000,000 barrels, which is a 16 percent decline
13 from that projection.

14 (8) Approximately one-half of nonproducing
15 leases are waiting to complete environmental review
16 and obtain permits to drill, and the Obama Adminis-
17 tration has added new delays of additional regula-
18 tions and hurdles to slow this process.

19 (9) The Bureau of Land Management has ac-
20 knowledged a 206-day average processing time for
21 Applications for Permits to Drill, but the actual time
22 from when a company submits an Application for
23 Permit to Drill to final approval is close to 2 years
24 in some field offices.

1 (10) Congress should act to increase the ap-
2 proval of oil and gas production on Federal land.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON POTENTIAL PRODUCTION OF OIL AND**
4 **GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND.**

5 (a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior
6 (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”), in consulta-
7 tion with lease holders, shall identify on an annual basis
8 200 non-producing oil and gas leases held for onshore
9 Federal land that—

10 (1) have the highest potential for oil and gas
11 production; and

12 (2) for which the Department of the Interior
13 has already received an Application for Permit to
14 Drill.

15 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not less than 60 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
17 submit to Congress a report including all findings and de-
18 terminations of the assessment under subsection (a).

19 **SEC. 4. PERMIT ISSUANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND**
20 **GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND.**

21 (a) PERMIT ISSUANCE.—Not later than 180 days
22 after issuing the report under section 3(b), the Secretary
23 of the Interior shall issue permits to drill on the 200 leases
24 identified in the assessment under section 3(a).

1 (b) OTHER PERMITS.—Issuing permits under sub-
2 section (a) shall not delay, reduce, or defer action upon,
3 any other permitting processes.

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