

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 840

To allow the conduct of offshore energy exploration, development, and production operations under drilling permits previously issued by the Minerals Management Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LATA, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To allow the conduct of offshore energy exploration, development, and production operations under drilling permits previously issued by the Minerals Management Service, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Exploration Com-
3 ing from Underwater Reserves of Energy Act” or the
4 “SECURE Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The United States imported an estimated
8 61 percent of its oil in 2010, sending approximately
9 \$337 billion, or \$641,172 per minute, to foreign
10 countries.

11 (2) Approximately 1.6 billion barrels of petro-
12 leum imported into the United States last year came
13 from members of the Organization of the Petroleum
14 Exporting Countries, like Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait,
15 Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emir-
16 ates.

17 (3) More than ten percent of the petroleum im-
18 ported into the United States came from Venezuela.

19 (4) According to data from the Energy Infor-
20 mation Administration, by 2035, worldwide demand
21 for oil and natural gas is expected to increase by al-
22 most 30 and 38 percent, respectively.

23 (5) Domestic oil and natural gas resources off
24 United States shores in undiscovered fields total 86
25 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of
26 natural gas, enough oil to replace imports from

1 Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for the next 80 years
2 and enough clean natural gas to power America's in-
3 dustry for the next 63 years.

4 (6) Oil and natural gas production off United
5 States shores is projected to decrease in 2011 by 13
6 percent from 2010 levels in part because of regu-
7 latory delays implemented by the Department of the
8 Interior and increased uncertainty about future in-
9 vestment in drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

10 (7) Regular-grade retail gasoline prices are ex-
11 pected to continue rising through 2011 to as much
12 as \$5.00 per gallon by 2012, according to some esti-
13 mates.

14 (8) The Department of the Interior has pro-
15 scribed reforms to ensure the safe development of oil
16 and natural gas production off United States shores,
17 including implementing new rules that would
18 strengthen safety requirements for offshore drilling
19 operations.

20 (9) The resumption of oil and natural gas drill-
21 ing operations off United States shores is imperative
22 to the United States economic recovery and energy
23 security.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT OFFSHORE DRILLING**
2 **UNDER APPROVED PERMITS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), each
4 holder of a permit issued pursuant to an application for
5 a permit to drill, including an application for a permit to
6 sidetrack, that was approved by the Minerals Management
7 Service before May 3, 2010, for purposes of Outer Conti-
8 nental Shelf energy exploration or development and pro-
9 duction may conduct all operations authorized under the
10 terms of the permit (including all exploration plans, devel-
11 opment operations coordination documents, and develop-
12 ment production plans submitted for the permit)—

13 (1) without further review by the Bureau of
14 Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and En-
15 forcement; and

16 (2) without further review or delay under the
17 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
18 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or any other similar statutes
19 such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
20 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Marine Mammal Protec-
21 tion Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

22 (b) OPERATIONS.—Operations conducted under sub-
23 section (a) shall be carried out in accordance with the safe-
24 ty protocols contained in part 250 of title 30, Code of Fed-
25 eral Regulations.

1 (c) REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE.—This section does not
2 prohibit review of compliance with the terms of such a per-
3 mit.

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