



H.Con.Res. 14

Title VIII – Committee on Natural Resources

Subtitle A – Energy and Mineral Resources

Part 1 – Oil and Gas

Sec. 80101. Onshore Oil and Gas.

Requires the Secretary of the Interior to immediately resume quarterly lease sales for all eligible and nominated lands without discretion. Lease sales are mandated in Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Nevada, Alaska, and any other state with land available for oil and gas development. If a sale is delayed or canceled for any reason, or less than 25 percent of the acres offered receive a bid, then the Secretary must hold a replacement sale. This section wastes taxpayer resources by forcing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to hold unnecessary lease sales, and will lead to federal agencies selling off our public lands at cut-rate prices.

Amends the Mineral Leasing Act to:

- Require the Secretary to offer all eligible land for lease if it has had an expression of interest in the last 18 months.
- Give the Secretary broad discretion to hold oil and gas lease sales, even if a land use plan is revised.
- Extend an “application for a permit to drill” (APD) validity to four years (from three).
- Require the Secretary to process APDs and other permits and authorizations even if there is a pending civil action against the application.
- Direct the Secretary to use certain categorical exclusions from NEPA for oil and gas development even if there are “extraordinary circumstances” that would otherwise require more thorough analysis.

Sec. 80102. Noncompetitive leasing.

Reinstates noncompetitive oil and gas leasing, which was eliminated in the IRA because it led to the hoarding of low-priced land by oil and gas companies, much of which they never bring into production. Rather than holding multiple rounds of competitive bidding for land, land is immediately available for noncompetitive leasing if no bids are received in the first round. Oil and gas companies are allowed to convert their low-producing leases to noncompetitive leases with a decreased royalty rate of 12.5 percent (down from 16.67 as enacted by the IRA).

Authorizes the Secretary to reduce royalty rates for noncompetitive leases if it is “in his judgment it is equitable to do so” or the royalty rate would cause “undue hardship” or an early end to production.

Sec. 80103. Permit fees.

Requires the Secretary to approve applications for the commingling of production from two or more sources of oil and gas before production reaches the point of royalty measurement if the applicant pays a \$10,000 fee and agrees to install measurement devices. Under current law, commingling applications *may* be approved if the different sources being combined all have the same proportion of federal mineral interest (federal land vs. state vs. private), the same fixed royalty rate, and the same revenue distribution. More commingling could exacerbate DOI’s ongoing challenges with accurately measuring production and collecting royalties.

Requires the Secretary to establish a permit-by-rule process where an oil and gas leaseholder may receive an APD if the leaseholder certifies compliance with regulations themselves and pays a fee of \$5,000. “Permit by

rule” means that the reviewing authority sets a standard of requirements criteria. If an application meets these criteria, it will be automatically approved and will skip the final stage of public review.

Sec. 80104. Permitting fee for non-federal land.

For a \$5,000 fee, no federal permit under the Mineral Leasing Act is needed for oil and gas exploration and production that happens on non-Federal lands but taps into Federal subsurface oil and gas mineral estate. This applies as long as the operator has a state drilling permit and less than 50 percent of the oil and gas to be accessed is federally owned. The Secretary of the Interior may not require a bond, impose mitigation requirements, or require approval for reclamation for lands described under this section. Development under this section “shall require no federal action” and may begin as soon as 30 days after the leaseholder submits the State permit to the Secretary.

Sec. 80105. Reinstate reasonable royalty rates.

Reduces the range of offshore oil and gas royalty rates from between 16.67 and 18.75 to between 12.5 and 18.75 percent, lowering the royalty rate floor. Royalties could be reduced further at the Secretary’s discretion, per the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Reduces onshore oil and gas royalty rates from 16.67 to 12.5 percent. These royalty rates were increased through the IRA to provide a fair return for taxpayers.

Part II – Geothermal

Sec. 80111. Geothermal leasing.

Amends the Geothermal Steam Act by requiring one lease sale for geothermal energy every year rather than one every two years. If the annual sale is canceled or delayed, the Secretary must hold a replacement sale. The Secretary is required to include all nominated parcels for geothermal development under a state’s approved resource development plan.

Sec. 80112. Geothermal royalties.

Amends the royalty structure in the Geothermal Steam Act to apply to each “electric generating facility producing electricity” on a geothermal lease. This gives additional discretion to the Secretary to change royalty rates on a facility-by-facility basis.

Part III – Alaska

Sec. 80121. Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing.

Directs the Secretary to withdraw the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) prepared by the Biden administration to review the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Record of Decision (ROD), which called for an end to the program. Secretary Burgum previously took this action on March 20, 2025. Reissues the leases that were canceled by the Biden administration under the terms from the Trump administration in 2020, which was previously ordered by a federal court in Alaska in also acted on March 2025.¹

Requires at least four new area-wide lease sales on the coastal plain in the next seven years, offering at least 400,000 acres each time. Directs Secretary to issue all necessary rights of way, permits, biological opinions, incidental take statements, to develop said leases, and waives permitting requirements of ANILCA, NEPA, the Tax Act, ESA, and MMPA. Judicial review is waived except for challenges by the State of Alaska or any leaseholder. Revenue will be split 50-50 between the state of Alaska and the federal government for the next ten

¹ US Department of Interior, [“Interior Secretary Takes Steps to Unleash Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential,”](#) March 20, 2025.

years, then after 2035, it switches to 90-10 between Alaska and the federal government. Seismic testing will be approved on a 30-day timeline. If the Secretary doesn't comply with deadlines in this section, leaseholders can petition the courts to force action within 90 days.

Sec. 80122. National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Ceases implementation of the Biden administration's NPR-A rule, which protected ecologically sensitive areas from oil and gas development. Within one year of enactment, the Secretary is required to hold lease sales in the region once every two years. Rights of way, easements, and other authorizations will not be subject to judicial review, including any pending litigation. The State of Alaska and any leaseholders may pursue judicial review, and if the court finds a violation of the act, it must order the agency to remedy the violation within 90 days. Revenue will be split 50-50 between the state of Alaska and the federal government for the next ten years, then after 2035, it switches to 90-10 between Alaska and the federal government. Seismic testing will be approved on a 30-day timeline.

Part IV – Mining

Sec. 80131. Super National Forest Lands in Minnesota.

Voids Public Land Order 7917, the 225,000-acre withdrawal surrounding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) and reinstates Twin Metals' leases in the region on extended 20-year terms with rights to non-discretionary renewals. The reinstatement of leases is not subject to judicial review, except for a leaseholder to seek judicial review regarding an alleged failure by the Secretary under this section.

Sec. 80132. Ambler Road in Alaska.

Amends the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to require the issuance of all rights-of-way, permits, and other authorizations for the Ambler Road, a 211-mile mining road through the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. This section reinstates the March 2020 Joint Record of Decision, Alternative A for Ambler Road, which approves the road and waives all applicable Federal laws with no judicial review. Requires an annual \$500,000 rental fee for the Ambler Road right-of-way for FY 2025-2034. For years, numerous Alaska Native communities have strongly opposed this project, with eighty-nine Tribes and First Nations passing or signing onto resolutions against the Ambler Road.

Part V – Coal

Sec. 80141. Coal Leasing.

For all applications for a coal lease sale, the Secretary is required to publish an environmental review, hold a lease sale, and issue the lease within 90 days. This section directs the Secretary to make 4,000,000 acres in the West available for coal leasing (non-competitive) that are not otherwise withdrawn.

Sec. 80142. Future Coal Leasing.

Secretary Jewell's Secretarial Order SO 3338 (coal moratorium while evaluating the federal coal leasing program) or any other actions limiting the Federal coal leasing program shall have no force or effect. This SO was withdrawn by the first Trump administration, and never reinstated by the Biden administration.,

Sec. 80143. Coal Royalty.

Decreases coal royalty from 12.5 to 7 percent, with discretion to go lower, and retroactively applies this to all active coal leases.

Sec. 80144. Authorization to mine federal minerals.

Automatically authorizes the Bull Mountain coal mine plan modification, which the courts have repeatedly struck down for not considering climate impacts. The Bull Mountain Mine is extremely controversial, and the

owner of the mine, Signal Peak is currently on probation with the Department of Justice (DOJ) after criminal convictions for environmental and safety violations.² These include more than 122 accidents and more than 1,600 citations of mine safety violations.³ To preserve the mine’s reputation, Signal Peak leadership pressured mine employees “not to report injuries that occurred while on duty, using over and implicit pressure, threats, and bribes.”⁴

Part VI – NEPA

Sec. 80151. Project sponsor opt-in fees for environmental reviews.

Establishes a pay-to-expedite pathway for any project subject to NEPA review. If a project sponsor or developer pays 125 percent of the estimated review cost, a six-month deadline is established to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a one-year deadline to complete an Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The EA or EIS could also be prepared by the project sponsor. EIS reviews are typically reserved for the roughly 1 percent of projects that are the largest, most complex and controversial, with the greatest potential for environmental and public health impacts. This section also eliminates administrative and judicial review of the adequacy of any EA or EIS completed under this program. In effect, this section allows well-financed project sponsors to buy a one-year EIS (or a six-month EA) and immunity from lawsuits and judicial or administrative review.

Sec. 80152. Recission relating to environmental and climate data collection.

Rescinds unobligated funds from section 60401 of the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds support data collection efforts related to the CEQ EJ-Screen tool and disproportionate climate and pollution impacts. (CBO estimates \$25 million of the \$32.5 million originally appropriated remains unobligated).

Part VII – Miscellaneous

Sec. 80161. Protest fees.

The Minerals Leasing Act of 1920 allows individuals or groups to file protests challenging the Bureau of Land Management’s oil and gas leasing decisions. This section adds a \$150 page fee to file a protest, with an additional \$5 per page for each page over 10 pages. If the protest submission covers more than one lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill, it assesses an additional \$10 per lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill. These protest filing fees are indexed to inflation.

This targets members of the public, including hunters and anglers, private landowners, and local elected officials, who simply want their voices heard when oil companies try to lease in sensitive wildlife habitats, on their ranches, or next to national parks. For example, if an oil company tried to lease split-estate lands to drill for oil under a private ranch, it could cost the rancher several hundred dollars to file a formal protest.

Part VIII – Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing

Sec. 80171. Mandatory offshore oil and gas lease sales.

For all lease sales under this title, no new analysis is required under the ESA, MMPA, NEPA, or Coastal Zone Management Act, and it prohibits BOEM from instituting risk-reduction measures to protect Rice’s whale. It also allows the Secretary to waive any requirement of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act that the Secretary determines is slowing down leasing. This section allows state governors to nominate areas adjacent to their state

² Tom Baratta. September 19, 2024. “Why is Daines giving away public lands?” Montana Independent Record. (On file with the committee.)

³ Darrell Ehrlick. (September 30, 2024). “Groups challenge Montana DEQ’s decision to allow more coal mining for Bull Mountain Mine.” *Daily Montanan*. <https://dailymontanain.com/2024/09/30/groups-challenge-montana-deqs-decision-to-allow-more-coal-mining-for-bull-mountain-mine/>.

⁴ Hiroko Tabuchi. (January 13, 2023). “A Faked Kidnapping and Cocaine: A Montana Mine’s Descent Into Chaos,” *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/13/climate/signal-peak-mine-coal.html>.

waters, which BOEM must include in the next lease sale, and requires geological and geophysical survey permits (seismic testing) to be approved within 30 days.

This section requires 30 lease sales over the next 15 years in the Gulf of Mexico (two annually). Each lease sale must amount to the entire region, or whatever remains that is unleased. This section also requires six lease sales in the Cook Inlet of one million acres each, or whatever remains if less than one million acres. Beginning in 2035, 90 percent of all revenues from leases issued offshore of Alaska pursuant to this section will go to the State of Alaska and 10 percent to the Treasury. No leases awarded under this section in either area can be cancelled, and it prevents the Secretary from imposing any additional terms on these leases, such as risk-reduction measures to avoid harming the critically endangered Rice's whale. For all leases under this act, this section permanently reinstates a Biological Opinion that essentially waives all ESA and MMPA requirements in the Gulf of Mexico. Judicial review for all permits under this section is limited to any circuit courts in the affected State. This section also lifts the cap on revenue-sharing to states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

This section refers to the Gulf as the "Gulf of America."

Sec. 80172. Offshore commingling.

Allows for comingling of offshore production unless "conclusive evidence" establishes that such comingling can't be done safely or would reduce the total amount of oil recovered from those reservoirs. This section also uses the unserious term "Gulf of America."

Sec. 80173. Limitations on amounts of distributed qualified Outer Continental Shelf revenues.

Lifts the cap on revenue-sharing to states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

Part IX – Renewable Energy

Sec. 80181. Renewable energy fees on federal land.

Increases rents and fees for onshore wind and solar. Acreage-based rental rates are increased according to a fee. Once the renewable energy project begins producing, they will pay as a "capacity fee" (royalty) either the acreage rental fee or 4.58 percent of the gross proceeds of the sale of the electricity generated. Wind projects may apply for a multiple-use reduction factor to their capacity fee if 25 percent or more of the land within their right of way is used for activities other than wind generation. If renewable energy projects are more than 15 days late paying their fees, the Secretary may charge a late fee; if the project holder is more than 90 days late, the Secretary may terminate the right-of-way (lease). ONRR will publish wind and solar energy revenues collected on its website.

Repeals the Secretary's authority, originally included in the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020 signed into law by President Trump, to reduce acreage rates and capacity fees for wind and solar based on economic conditions or in pursuit of promoting the use of wind and solar.

Sec. 80182. Renewable energy revenue sharing.

Twenty-five percent of renewable revenues shall go to the state where those revenues are generated, and 25 percent to the county where it is generated. This shall be in addition to payments in lieu of taxes.

Subtitle B – Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Sec. 80201. Recission of funds for investing in coastal communities and climate resilience.

Rescinds unobligated funds from Section 40001 of the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds support conservation and restoration of marine and coastal habitats, Pacific salmon and other marine fisheries, and fisheries science and stock assessments. (CBO estimate is \$100 million of the \$2.6 billion originally appropriated to NOAA.)

Sec. 80202. Recission of funds for facilities of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and National Marine Sanctuaries.

Rescinds unobligated funds from Section 40002 of the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds support construction and replacement of piers, marine operations facilities, fisheries laboratories, and National Marine Sanctuary System facilities. (CBO estimate is \$29 million of the \$200 million originally appropriated to NOAA.)

Sec. 80203. Surface water storage enhancement.

Appropriates \$2 billion to increase the storage capacity of Bureau of Reclamation storage facilities. This targets Shasta Dam.

Sec. 80204. Water conveyance enhancement.

Appropriates \$500 million for restoring and increasing the storage capacity of existing Bureau of Reclamation conveyance facilities. This targets the Friant-Kern Canal.

Subtitle C – Federal Lands

Sec. 80301. Prohibition on the implementation of the Rock Springs Field Office, Wyoming, Resource Management Plan.

Prohibits the implementation and administration of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management's Rock Springs Field Office in Wyoming. This targets a plan developed through rigorous public input designed to strike a fair balance between development and conservation in order to prioritize oil and gas development and mining over all other considerations.

Sec. 80302. Prohibition on the implementation of the Buffalo Field Office, Wyoming, Resource Management Plan.

Prohibits the implementation and administration of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management's Buffalo Field Office in Wyoming. This targets a plan developed by the Biden administration designed to suspend future coal leasing in the Powder River Basin in order to reduce emissions and promote sustainable land management.

Sec. 80303. Prohibition on the implementation of the Miles City Field Office, Montana, Resource Management Plan.

Prohibits the implementation and administration of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management's Miles City Field Office in Montana in order to prioritize coal production over all other considerations. This targets a plan developed by the Biden administration designed to suspend future coal leasing in the Powder River Basin in order to reduce emissions and promote sustainable land management.

Sec. 80304. Prohibition on the implementation of the North Dakota Resource Management Plan.

Prohibits the implementation and administration of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management's North Dakota Field Office in order to prioritize oil and gas development and coal mining over all other considerations.

Sec. 80305. Prohibition on the implementation of the Colorado River Valley Field Office Resource Management Plans.

Prohibits the implementation and administration of the Resource Management Plans (RMP) for the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley Field Office in order to prioritize oil and gas development and mining over all other considerations. This targets plans developed to better incorporate the climate impacts of oil and gas development and rolls back protections for conservation, habitat preservation, river vitality, and areas of tribal and historic significance.

Sec. 80306. Rescission of Forest Service Funds.

Rescinds unobligated funds from Section 23001(a)(4) of the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds support the protection and mapping of old-growth forests in the National Forest System. (CBO has not provided an estimate regarding how much of the \$50 million provided is still unobligated.)

Sec. 80307. Recission of National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Rescinds unobligated funds from IRA Section 50221. These funds support conservation and climate resilience projects on National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. (CBO estimate is \$7 million of the \$250 million originally appropriated to DOI.)

Sec. 80308. Recission of Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service Funds.

Rescinds IRA Section 50222. These funds support habitat restoration on NPS and BLM lands. (CBO estimate is \$5 million of the \$250 million originally appropriated to DOI.)

Sec. 80309. Recission of National Park Service Funds.

Rescinds IRA Section 50223. These funds support hiring employees to serve in the National Park system. (CBO estimate is \$267 million of the \$500 million originally appropriated to DOI.)

Sec. 80310. Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary.

Appropriates \$150 million for events and activities related to the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States. Appropriates \$40 million to establish and maintain the "Garden of American Heroes", a proposed statutory park intended to recognize "great figures of America's history" as determined by President Trump.

Sec. 80311. Long-term contracts for the Forest Service.

Requires the Forest Service to enter into at least one 20-year timber sale or stewardship contract in each region of the Forest Service for each of the fiscal years 2025-2034.

Sec. 80312. Long-term contracts for the Bureau of Land Management.

Requires the Bureau of Land Management to enter into at least one 20-year timber sale or stewardship contract for the fiscal years 2025-2034.

Sec. 80313. Timber Production for the Forest Service.

Requires the Forest Service to increase timber production by 25 percent over production levels in 2024. This matches an Executive Order issued by President Trump, and it is strictly designed to increase logging in national forests without any regard for wildfire mitigation or other considerations.

Sec. 80314. Timber Production for the Bureau of Land Management.

Requires the Bureau of Land Management to increase timber production by 25 percent over production levels in 2024.