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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BRADY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue an oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 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 “More Energy More  
5 Jobs Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE NEW FIVE-YEAR OIL AND**  
2 **GAS LEASING PROGRAM.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW  
4 LEASING PROGRAMS.—Section 18(c) of the Outer Conti-  
5 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as  
7 paragraphs (5) and (6); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—In pre-  
11 paring each leasing program under this section, the  
12 Secretary shall—

13 “(A) allow the Governor of a coastal State  
14 to nominate for leasing under such program  
15 areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are  
16 adjacent to the waters of that State;

17 “(B) include each area nominated under  
18 subparagraph (A) in the draft leasing program  
19 under this section and consider leasing of such  
20 areas as an alternative Federal action; and

21 “(C) include in development of the pro-  
22 gram resource estimates that are available, and  
23 develop resource estimates for the areas for  
24 which such data are not available including for  
25 the areas nominated under subparagraph (A).

1           “(3) INCLUSION OF STATE-NOMINATED  
2 AREAS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
4 include in the final program issued under this  
5 section each area nominated by a State under  
6 paragraph (2) if the Secretary determines that  
7 development in such area will best meet na-  
8 tional energy needs and is consistent with the  
9 principles set forth in subsection (a).

10           “(B) REPORT.—If the Secretary omits any  
11 area nominated under paragraph (2), the Sec-  
12 retary shall submit to the Governor that nomi-  
13 nated the area and the Committee on Natural  
14 Resources of the House of Representatives a re-  
15 port detailing why oil and gas development in  
16 such area do not best meet national energy  
17 needs and is not consistent with the principles  
18 set forth in subsection (a).

19           “(C) ALTERNATIVE VIEWS.—After sub-  
20 mittal of the report required by subparagraph  
21 (B), each such Governor shall be provided 60  
22 days within which to offer alternative views on  
23 why the Secretary’s findings are not consistent  
24 with the principles set forth in subsection (a).

1           “(4) NOTICE OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAN.—  
2           The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register  
3           a notice of the effectiveness of each oil and gas leas-  
4           ing program issued under this section on the date  
5           such program takes effect.”.

6 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO REGION.**

7           Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
8           (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended by adding at the end the  
9           following:

10          “(i) ANNUAL LEASE SALES IN GULF OF MEXICO RE-  
11          GION.—

12           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13           “(A) CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-  
14           NING AREA.—The term ‘Central Gulf of Mexico  
15           Planning Area’ has the meaning given the term  
16           ‘Central Planning Area’ in section 102 of the  
17           Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006  
18           (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109–432).

19           “(B) WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO PLAN-  
20           NING AREA.—The term ‘Western Gulf of Mex-  
21           ico Planning Area’ means the Western Gulf of  
22           Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental  
23           Shelf, as designated in the document entitled  
24           ‘Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental

1 Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007–  
2 2012’ and dated February 2006.

3 “(2) ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding  
4 any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year  
5 2022, the Secretary shall hold a minimum of 2 re-  
6 gion-wide lease sales annually in the Gulf of Mexico  
7 pursuant to this Act, each of which shall include  
8 areas in—

9 “(A) the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning  
10 Area; and

11 “(B) the Western Gulf of Mexico Planning  
12 Area.

13 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the  
15 lease sales under paragraph (2), the Secretary  
16 shall issue leases to the highest responsible  
17 qualified bidder or bidders.

18 “(B) AREAS INCLUDED IN LEASE SALES.—  
19 In carrying out the lease sales under paragraph  
20 (2), the Secretary shall include in each lease  
21 sale all unleased areas that are not subject to  
22 restrictions as of the date of the lease sale.

23 “(4) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each  
25 lease sale required under paragraph (2), the

1 Secretary shall conduct any environmental re-  
2 views required by the National Environmental  
3 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

4 “(B) DEADLINE.—

5 “(i) INDIVIDUAL REVIEW.—If the Sec-  
6 retary conducts environmental reviews with  
7 respect to a lease sale under subparagraph  
8 (A) for each individual lease included in  
9 the lease sale, the Secretary shall complete  
10 all environmental reviews for the lease sale,  
11 including by issuing a finding of no signifi-  
12 cant impact or a record of decision, if ap-  
13 plicable, in less than 365 calendar days.

14 “(ii) PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW.—If the  
15 Secretary conducts a programmatic envi-  
16 ronmental review with respect to a lease  
17 sale under subparagraph (A) for all leases  
18 under the lease sale, the Secretary shall  
19 complete the programmatic environmental  
20 review, including by issuing a finding of no  
21 significant impact or a record of decision,  
22 if applicable, in less than 180 calendar  
23 days.

24 “(j) PERMITTING.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sovereign con-  
2           tracting rights and obligations, the Secretary shall  
3           review and grant or deny in accordance with para-  
4           graph (2) any application for a permit or other ap-  
5           proval for offshore oil and natural gas exploration,  
6           development, and production activities under a lease  
7           issued pursuant to this Act by not later than the  
8           earlier of—

9           “(A) 75 calendar days after the date on  
10           which the application is received by the Bureau  
11           of Ocean Energy Management or the Bureau of  
12           Safety and Environmental Enforcement; or

13           “(B) any other applicable deadline re-  
14           quired by law.

15           “(2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Absent clear grounds  
17           for denial of an application for a permit or  
18           other approval described in paragraph (1), the  
19           Secretary shall grant the permit or approval.

20           “(B) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary de-  
21           nies an application for a permit or other ap-  
22           proval under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
23           shall provide to the applicant written notice ex-  
24           plaining the grounds for the denial.”.