

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 956

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2017

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to limit the authority of the President to withdraw areas from oil and gas leasing, 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 “Outer Continental
5 Shelf Energy Access Now Act” or the “OCEAN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO**
7 **WITHDRAW AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTI-**
8 **NENTAL SHELF FROM OIL AND GAS LEASING.**

9 (a) WITHDRAWALS.—

1 (1) LIMITATION.—Section 12 of the Outer Con-
 2 tinental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341) is
 3 amended—

4 (A) by striking subsection (a) and insert-
 5 ing the following:

6 “(a) LIMITATION ON WITHDRAWALS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
 8 vided in this section, no unleased land of the outer
 9 Continental Shelf may be withdrawn from disposi-
 10 tion except by Act of Congress.

11 “(2) NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES.—The
 12 President, through a rulemaking under section 553
 13 of title 5, United States Code, may withdraw from
 14 disposition any of the unleased land of the outer
 15 Continental Shelf located in a national marine sanc-
 16 tuary.”; and

17 (B) in subsection (c)—

18 (i) by striking “(c) All leases” and in-
 19 serting the following:

20 “(c) NATIONAL SECURITY PROVISIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—All leases”; and

22 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
 23 lowing:

1 “(2) TIME PERIOD FOR SUSPENSION OF OPER-
 2 ATIONS.—Any suspension of operations under para-
 3 graph (1)—

4 “(A) shall be for a period of not more than
 5 90 days; and

6 “(B) may be renewed for one or more ad-
 7 ditional periods of not more than 90 days
 8 each.”.

9 (2) EXISTING WITHDRAWALS.—Any withdrawal
 10 from disposition of any of the unleased land of the
 11 outer Continental Shelf under section 12(a) of the
 12 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
 13 1341(a)) (as in effect on the day before the date of
 14 enactment of this Act) that occurred before the date
 15 of the enactment of this Act (other than a with-
 16 drawal from disposition any of the unleased land of
 17 the outer Continental Shelf located in a national ma-
 18 rine sanctuary or a national monument) shall have
 19 no force or effect.

20 (b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH
 21 MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENTS.—

22 (1) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section
 23 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is amended
 24 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) LIMITATION OF MARINE AREAS.—Notwith-
2 standing subsections (a) and (b), the President may not
3 declare or reserve any ocean waters (as defined in section
4 3 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act
5 of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1402)) or land beneath ocean waters
6 as a national monument.”.

7 (2) EXISTING MONUMENTS NOT AFFECTED.—
8 Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1)
9 affects any national monument declared before the
10 date of the enactment of this Act.

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