

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1784

To prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

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 “Stop Arctic Ocean
5 Drilling Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that, as of the date
8 of enactment of this Act—

1 (1) global climate change is occurring due
2 largely to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse
3 gases and will continue to pose ongoing risks and
4 challenges to the people and the Government of the
5 United States;

6 (2) the evidence of impacts and dangers of cli-
7 mate change are supported by numerous reports and
8 panels, such as the 2014 National Climate Assess-
9 ment, the United States Global Change Research
10 Program, and the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review
11 of the Department of Defense;

12 (3) the average temperature in the United
13 States during the past decade was 0.8 degree Cel-
14 sius (1.5 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the
15 1901–1960 average, and the last decade was the
16 warmest on record both in the United States and
17 globally;

18 (4) a global temperature increase of 2 degrees
19 Celsius will lead to increased droughts, rising seas,
20 mass extinctions, heat waves, desertification,
21 wildfires, and acidifying oceans;

22 (5) delaying action on climate change will result
23 in severe economic losses, and global mitigation costs
24 increase by approximately 40 percent for each dec-
25 ade of delay;

1 (6) at least 80 percent of the carbon from
2 known fossil fuel reserves must not be released to
3 the atmosphere to have an 80-percent chance of
4 avoiding the worst effects of climate change stem-
5 ming from a 2-degree-Celsius change in global tem-
6 perature;

7 (7) developing oil and gas reserves in the Arctic
8 Ocean is incompatible with staying within that glob-
9 al carbon budget and avoiding the worst effects of
10 climate change; and

11 (8) the Arctic Ocean is home to invaluable and
12 fragile ecosystems, which are critical to fisheries, mi-
13 gratory birds, indigenous populations, and subsist-
14 ence hunters.

15 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
16 United States that the Arctic Ocean should be managed
17 for the best interests of the people of the United States,
18 including by keeping fossil fuels in the ground to avoid
19 the dangerous impacts of climate change.

20 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN ARCTIC**
21 **OCEAN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL**
22 **SHELF.**

23 Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
24 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the
25 following:

1 “(q) PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN
2 ARCTIC PLANNING AREA OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL
3 SHELF.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act
4 or any other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not
5 issue or renew a lease or any other authorization for the
6 exploration, development, or production of oil, natural gas,
7 or any other mineral in the Arctic Ocean, including the
8 Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas.”.

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