Unleashing American Energy Act of 2017

After 8 years of significant restrictions on energy exploration and development, American workers and industry are eager to pursue American energy independence.

Our nation’s offshore areas hold at least 480 Trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 101 Billion barrels of oil. Currently only 6% of the Outer Continental Shelf is available for energy production. The former administration reversed plans to offer lease sales in the Atlantic and additional lease areas off of Alaska, which cost American jobs and denied potentially billions of dollars of investment in the U.S economy. A Quest Offshore Resources report projects that development in the Atlantic alone could create 279,562 jobs and trigger $194 billion of investments by 2035.

The arrival of the new administration has many in the offshore economy optimistic about the future. However, the administration faces a long process to create a new 5-year leasing plan, which typically takes 24-36 months to finalize. Americans should not need to wait to develop our own resources and delay job and economic growth. The Unleashing American Energy Act of 2017 seeks to remedy this issue by empowering the Secretary of the Interior to add additional lease sales to an existing 5-year plan.

What this legislation achieves:

- Permits the Secretary of the Interior to add additional Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales to an existing 5-year plan
- Allows for new acreage to be made available years earlier than current process would allow
- Allows the Secretary to reverse the former administrations shortsighted decisions to remove Arctic and Atlantic lease sales from the current 5-year plan
- Stimulate thousands of good paying jobs along with billions of dollars of investment
- Add billions of revenue for federal, state and local governments
- Ensures continued considerations for: state preferences, environmental sensitivity, industry interest, fisheries, marine navigation and national energy markets.

This legislation would unleash an American energy investments that would pay dividends for decades to come. President Trump has pledged to add millions of American jobs and make America energy dominant. The Unleashing American Energy Act of 2017 would provide his administration the flexibility to do just that.

If you have any questions or would like your boss to be an original co-sponsors please contact Jack Cramton at (202) 224-6792 or by email at jack_cramton@cassidy.senate.gov.
Potential

Offshore Areas Blocked for Drilling under President Obama's 2012-2017 Plan

Proposed (January 2015)

Final (November 2016)