

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

Mr. CASSIDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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9 Continental Shelf may be withdrawn from disposi-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 1 or more addi-
7 tional periods of not more than 90 days each.”.

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

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

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

24 “(e) LIMITATION OF MARINE AREAS.—Notwith-
25 standing subsections (a) and (b), the President may not

1 declare or reserve any ocean waters (as defined in section
2 3 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act
3 of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1402)) or land beneath ocean waters
4 as a national monument.”.

5 (2) EXISTING MONUMENTS NOT AFFECTED.—

6 Nothing in the amendment made by paragraph (1)
7 affects any national monument declared before the
8 date of the enactment of this Act.