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H. R. 2556

To enhance national security and energy independence through comprehensive offshore energy resource assessment and mapping, to establish a framework for the regular review and standardization of offshore resource exploration methodologies, and for related purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2025

Mr. HUNT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To enhance national security and energy independence through comprehensive offshore energy resource assessment and mapping, to establish a framework for the regular review and standardization of offshore resource exploration methodologies, and for related 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 “Comprehensive Off-
5 shore Resource Enhancement Act of 2025” or the “CORE
6 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE ENERGY RESOURCES**
2 **AND RESERVES.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) EXPLORATION; DEVELOPMENT, PRODUC-
5 TION.—The terms “exploration”, “development”,
6 and “production” have the meanings given such
7 terms in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf
8 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331).

9 (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
10 means the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the
11 Interior, and the Secretary of State.

12 (b) REPORT ON TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON
13 RESERVOIRS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-
16 taries shall jointly submit to the Committee on En-
17 ergy and Natural Resources and the Committee on
18 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee
19 on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Nat-
20 ural Resources, and the Committee on Foreign Af-
21 fairs of the House of Representatives a report that
22 includes the following:

23 (A) An identification and assessment of
24 any existing transboundary hydrocarbon res-
25 ervoirs, including those covered by bilateral
26 maritime boundary treaties and agreements,

1 and any potential transboundary areas for fu-
2 ture exploration, development, and production
3 of hydrocarbons.

4 (B) An analysis of the legal frameworks
5 established by relevant maritime boundary trea-
6 ties and agreements, including provisions re-
7 lated to the equitable exploration, development,
8 and production of transboundary hydrocarbon
9 reservoirs and mechanisms for resolving dis-
10 putes, and their adoption by counterparty na-
11 tions.

12 (C) An evaluation of the potential eco-
13 nomic, environmental, and geopolitical implica-
14 tions of transboundary hydrocarbon exploration,
15 development, and production, including impacts
16 on domestic energy security, greenhouse gas
17 emissions, and international relations.

18 (D) Recommendations for enhancing co-
19 operation and coordination among the United
20 States and neighboring countries in the explo-
21 ration, development, and production of trans-
22 boundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, including
23 mechanisms for information sharing, joint ex-
24 ploration, development, and production, and
25 dispute resolution.

1 (E) Data and insights derived from recent
2 collaborative efforts between the United States
3 and Canada, such as seismic data collection,
4 and an analysis of how such efforts can inform
5 the delineation of maritime boundaries.

6 (F) An examination of unresolved mari-
7 time boundaries between the United States and
8 Canada, particularly those involving potential
9 transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, and an
10 identification of potential legal and diplomatic
11 avenues to resolve disputes over such bound-
12 aries, including the possibility of involving inter-
13 national judicial bodies such as the Inter-
14 national Court of Justice or a chamber con-
15 stituted by such Court pursuant to a special
16 agreement between the parties.

17 (G) A review of existing data on the poten-
18 tial for shared exploration, development, and
19 production of transboundary hydrocarbon res-
20 ervoirs in disputed maritime zones between the
21 United States and Canada, with recommenda-
22 tions for further studies or negotiations to ad-
23 dress uncertainties and maximize joint explo-
24 ration, development, and production opportuni-
25 ties.

1 (H) A comprehensive review of activities by
2 neighboring countries, including Cuba, Mexico,
3 Canada, the Bahamas, and Russia, regarding
4 the exploration, development, seismic surveying,
5 drilling, production, or any other activity re-
6 lated to transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs,
7 which such review shall include the status of
8 any bilateral or multilateral agreements, an as-
9 sessment of foreign exploration, development,
10 and production efforts within transboundary
11 zones adjacent to United States maritime
12 boundaries, and an analysis of the potential im-
13 plications of these activities for United States
14 energy security, environmental impacts, and
15 geopolitical considerations.

16 (2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the
17 report required to be submitted under paragraph
18 (1), the Secretaries shall—

19 (A) prioritize the acquisition and use of
20 advanced geophysical, geological, and
21 geotechnical data and methods;

22 (B) acquire and apply new and emerging
23 modeling and analytic technologies, including
24 data analysis tools, quantum computing, artifi-
25 cial intelligence, modeling, and geographic in-

1 formation systems, to approximate the quantity
2 and establish a peer-reviewed range of resources
3 in each regional planning area with a discussion
4 of the upper and lower bound of the estimates
5 with that discussion to include recommenda-
6 tions as to how to reduce the range of uncer-
7 tainty; and

8 (C) in partnership with other relevant Fed-
9 eral agencies, including the National Science
10 Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmos-
11 pheric Administration, and the Office of Naval
12 Research, utilize any existing maritime vessels
13 or deployed capability, including any geo-
14 physical, geological, or related mapping tech-
15 nologies.

16 (c) STANDARDIZATION OF EXISTING REPORTS.—

17 Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
18 15912) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by inserting “, in consultation with
21 other relevant Federal agencies and not less
22 frequently than once every 5 years,” after “Sec-
23 retary shall”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “of Mex-
25 ico and Canada”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (d);

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(b) INCLUSIONS.—An inventory and analysis con-
6 ducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

7 “(1) An assessment of the approximate quan-
8 tity of undiscovered resources in the Atlantic region,
9 the Pacific region off the coasts of California, Or-
10 egon, Washington, and Hawaii, the Alaska region,
11 the Gulf of America region, and offshore of terri-
12 tories of the United States, which shall include the
13 following:

14 “(A) A detailed analysis of how the future
15 production of these undiscovered resources
16 could influence the United States capacity to
17 competitively produce, market, and export hy-
18 drocarbons on a global scale. Such detailed
19 analysis shall consider key market variables
20 such as global supply and demand dynamics,
21 projected price points, geopolitical factors, and
22 the role of United States production in main-
23 taining global energy security.

24 “(B) An economic analysis of how the de-
25 velopment and production of these undiscovered

1 resources would affect domestic employment
2 across the supply chain. Such economic analysis
3 shall include direct, indirect, and induced job
4 impacts, emphasizing the potential for job cre-
5 ation in exploration, production, refining, logis-
6 tics, and associated industries.

7 “(2) An identification and assessment of how
8 the unavailability for leasing of any lands that are
9 withdrawn under section 12 of the Outer Conti-
10 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341) or part of
11 the National Marine Sanctuary System established
12 by section 301(c) of the National Marine Sanc-
13 tuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431(c)) affects—

14 “(A) the exploration, development, and
15 production of oil and gas;

16 “(B) national security, including the Na-
17 tion’s ability to supply the Armed Forces, its al-
18 lies, and trade partners with products derived
19 from offshore oil or gas;

20 “(C) domestic jobs and employment; and

21 “(D) the amount of revenue States and
22 coastal political subdivisions receive pursuant
23 to—

1 “(i) section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C.
3 1331 note);

4 “(ii) the Land and Water Conserva-
5 tion Fund (established under section
6 200301 of title 54, United States Code);
7 and

8 “(iii) division A of subtitle III of title
9 54 (commonly referred to as the ‘National
10 Historic Preservation Act’).

11 “(3) An assessment, including identification of
12 locations, of non-energy mineral resources for com-
13 mercial or national security operations, including
14 stone, sand, and gravel, and offshore critical min-
15 erals.

16 “(c) UPDATING MODELS.—

17 “(1) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall, in
18 consultation with the National Petroleum Council,
19 the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and the United
20 States Association for Energy Economics, periodi-
21 cally conduct an assessment of the costs, benefits,
22 and accuracy of the models utilized by the Depart-
23 ment of the Interior to conduct an inventory and
24 analysis under subsection (a). The first assessment
25 under this paragraph shall be conducted not later

1 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the
2 CORE Act of 2025, and subsequent assessments not
3 less frequently than once every 10 years thereafter.

4 “(2) UPDATES AND REPORTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date on which the Secretary conducts
7 an assessment under paragraph (1), the Sec-
8 retary of the Interior shall, based on such as-
9 sessment—

10 “(i) update the models described in
11 such paragraph and publish a report on
12 such update; or

13 “(ii) publish a report on why an up-
14 date to such models is not necessary.

15 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—Each report published
16 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(i) A clear, detailed explanation of
19 any updates made to the models described
20 in paragraph (1) or why updates were not
21 necessary.

22 “(ii) An evaluation describing how any
23 updates made under subparagraph (A) im-
24 prove the accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and

1 reliability of the inventories and analyses
2 conducted under subsection (a).

3 “(iii) If any updates recommend by
4 the National Petroleum Council, the Soci-
5 ety of Petroleum Engineers, or the United
6 States Association for Energy Economics
7 are not incorporated, a detailed expla-
8 nation of why such updates were not incor-
9 porated.”; and

10 (4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

11 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall sub-
12 mit” and inserting “Not later than 1 year after
13 the date of enactment of the CORE Act of
14 2025, the Secretary shall submit”; and

15 (B) by striking “, within 6 months of the
16 date of enactment of the section”.

17 **SEC. 3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION PRAC-**
18 **TICES FROM OFFSHORE PRODUCING COUN-**
19 **TRY.**

20 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
21 of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 10
22 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consulta-
23 tion with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of En-
24 ergy, shall publish on the website of the Department of
25 the Interior and submit to the Committee on Natural Re-

1 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
3 a comparative analysis of the offshore oil and gas explo-
4 ration, development, and production practices for each
5 major offshore producing country. To the fullest extent
6 practicable, such comparative analysis shall include the
7 following:

8 (1) Data on—

9 (A) the number of offshore acres offered
10 for lease;

11 (B) the frequency of lease auctions, sales,
12 and lease issuances; and

13 (C) lease structures, fiscal terms, and the
14 competitive positioning of each major offshore
15 producing country relative to United States
16 leasing practices.

17 (2) Detailed reporting on the volume of oil and
18 gas produced (measured in barrels on an annual
19 basis and cubic feet, respectively), including histor-
20 ical trends, production forecasts, and the influence
21 of technological advancements on production effi-
22 ciency and recovery rates.

23 (3) An accounting of regional market demands,
24 export capabilities, and contributions to energy di-
25 versification strategies.

1 (4) An assessment, which shall be made in col-
2 laboration with the United States Geological Survey,
3 of the volume of both undiscovered and discovered
4 offshore oil and gas resources, including probabilistic
5 estimates of resource volumes that consider geologi-
6 cal, technological, and market factors impacting ex-
7 ploration, development, and production.

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