

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 513

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, Mr. PERRY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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

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## A BILL

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Offshore Lands Au-  
3 thorities Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. NULLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL WITHDRAWALS**  
5 **OF UNLEASED OFFSHORE LAND.**

6 The following Presidential withdrawals of unleased  
7 offshore land shall have no force or effect:

8 (1) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
9 20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
10 Certain Portions of the United States Arctic Outer  
11 Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating  
12 to the Chukchi Sea Planning Area and the Beaufort  
13 Sea Planning Area).

14 (2) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
15 16, 2014, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
16 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
17 nental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” (relating to  
18 the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area).

19 (3) Section 3 of Executive Order 13754 (81  
20 Fed. Reg. 90669; relating to Northern Bering Sea  
21 climate resilience).

22 (4) Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13990 (86  
23 Fed. Reg. 7037; relating to reinstating Executive  
24 Order 13754 and the Presidential Memorandum of  
25 December 20, 2016).

1           (5) The Presidential Memorandum of March  
2           13, 2023, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
3           Certain Areas off the United States Arctic Coast of  
4           the Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Gas Leas-  
5           ing” (relating to the Beaufort Planning Area).

6           (6) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
7           20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
8           Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer  
9           Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating  
10          to canyons and canyon complexes offshore the Atlan-  
11          tic coast).

12          (7) The Presidential Memorandum of January  
13          6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of  
14          Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
15          nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-  
16          lating to the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, and Pacific  
17          areas).

18          (8) The Presidential Memorandum of January  
19          6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of  
20          Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
21          nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-  
22          lating to the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resil-  
23          ience Area).

1 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO**  
2 **WITHDRAW UNLEASED OFFSHORE LANDS.**

3 Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
4 Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “(a)The President” and insert-  
6 ing the following:

7 “(a) WITHDRAWAL OF UNLEASED LANDS BY THE  
8 PRESIDENT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
10 graphs (2) and (3), the President”;

11 (2) by inserting “Beginning on the date of en-  
12 actment of the Offshore Lands Authorities Act of  
13 2025, the President shall transmit a withdrawal  
14 made under the preceding sentence to the President  
15 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
16 resentatives.” after “outer Continental Shelf.”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(A) ACRES.—A withdrawal under para-  
20 graph (1) may not exceed an area larger than  
21 150,000 acres in total or contiguous with any  
22 other withdrawal under such paragraph.

23 “(B) PERIOD.—A withdrawal under para-  
24 graph (1) may not be made for a period longer  
25 than 20 years.

1           “(C) CUMULATIVE WITHDRAWALS.—No  
2           President may, under paragraph (1), withdraw  
3           more than 500,000 acres cumulatively without  
4           obtaining Congressional approval.

5           “(3) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—The President  
6           may not withdraw unleased lands of the outer Conti-  
7           nental Shelf under paragraph (1) unless—

8                   “(A) the Secretary completed a quan-  
9                   titative and qualitative geophysical and geologi-  
10                  cal mineral resource assessment of the lands to  
11                  be withdrawn during the 5-year period ending  
12                  on the date of such withdrawal;

13                   “(B) the Secretary, in consultation with  
14                  the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of  
15                  Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and the Sec-  
16                  retary of Agriculture, completed an assessment  
17                  of the economic, energy, and national security  
18                  value of mineral deposits identified in the min-  
19                  eral resource assessment completed under sub-  
20                  paragraph (A);

21                   “(C) the Secretary completed an assess-  
22                  ment of the expected reduction in future Fed-  
23                  eral revenues resulting from the proposed with-  
24                  drawal to the Treasury, States (including from  
25                  allocations made under section 105 of the Gulf

1 of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43  
2 U.S.C. 1331 note)), the Land and Water Con-  
3 servation Fund, and the Historic Preservation  
4 Fund; and

5 “(D) the Secretary submits to the Commit-  
6 tees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Armed  
7 Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign  
8 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
9 Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
10 estry, Armed Services, Energy and Natural Re-  
11 sources, and Foreign Relations of the Senate a  
12 report that includes the results of the assess-  
13 ments completed under this subsection.

14 “(4) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCE-  
15 DURE.—

16 “(A) JOINT RESOLUTION DEFINED.—For  
17 the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘joint  
18 resolution’ means only a joint resolution, which  
19 may not have a preamble, the matter after the  
20 resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That  
21 Congress disapproves the withdrawal made  
22 under section 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental  
23 Shelf Lands Act on \_\_\_\_\_, relating to  
24 \_\_\_\_\_, and such withdrawal shall have no

1 force or effect.’ (the blank spaces being appro-  
2 priately filled in).

3 “(B) REFERRAL.—A joint resolution de-  
4 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall be referred to  
5 the committees in each House of Congress with  
6 jurisdiction.

7 “(C) DISCHARGE.—In the Senate, if the  
8 committee to which is referred a joint resolution  
9 described in subparagraph (A) has not reported  
10 such joint resolution (or a joint resolution  
11 aimed at the same Presidential withdrawal) at  
12 the end of 20 calendar days after the submis-  
13 sion or introduction of legislation to disapprove  
14 the withdrawal, such committee may be dis-  
15 charged from further consideration of such joint  
16 resolution and placed on the appropriate cal-  
17 endar of the Senate upon a petition supported  
18 in writing by 30 Members of the Senate.

19 “(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate,  
21 when the committee to which a joint reso-  
22 lution is referred has reported, or when a  
23 committee is discharged (under subpara-  
24 graph (C)) from further consideration of, a  
25 joint resolution described in subparagraph

1 (A), it is at any time thereafter in order  
2 (even though a previous motion to the  
3 same effect has been disagreed to) for a  
4 motion to proceed to the consideration of  
5 the joint resolution, and all points of order  
6 against the joint resolution (and against  
7 consideration of joint resolution) are  
8 waived. The motion is not subject to  
9 amendment, to a motion to postpone, or to  
10 a motion to proceed to the consideration of  
11 other business. A motion to reconsider the  
12 vote by which the motion is agreed to or  
13 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a mo-  
14 tion to proceed to the consideration of the  
15 joint resolution is agreed to, the joint reso-  
16 lution shall remain the unfinished business  
17 of the Senate until disposed of.

18 “(ii) DEBATE.—In the Senate, debate  
19 on the joint resolution, and on all debat-  
20 able motions and appeals in connection  
21 therewith, shall be limited to not more  
22 than 10 hours, which shall be divided  
23 equally between those favoring and those  
24 opposing the resolution. A motion further  
25 to limit debate is in order and not debat-

1           able. An amendment to, or a motion to  
2           postpone, or a motion to proceed to the  
3           consideration of other business, or a mo-  
4           tion to recommit the resolution is not in  
5           order.

6           “(iii) FINAL PASSAGE.—In the Sen-  
7           ate, immediately following the conclusion  
8           of the debate on a resolution described in  
9           subparagraph (A), and a single quorum  
10          call at the conclusion of the debate if re-  
11          quested in accordance with the rules of the  
12          Senate, the vote on final passage of the  
13          resolution shall occur.

14          “(iv) APPEALS.—In the Senate, ap-  
15          peals from the decisions of the Chair relat-  
16          ing to the application of the rules of the  
17          Senate to the procedure relating to a reso-  
18          lution described in subparagraph (A) shall  
19          be decided without debate.

20          “(v) TREATMENT IF OTHER HOUSE  
21          HAS ACTED.—If, before the passage by one  
22          House of a resolution of that House de-  
23          scribed in subparagraph (A), that House  
24          receives from the other House a resolution

1 described in subparagraph (A), then the  
2 following procedures shall apply:

3 “(I) NONREFERRAL.—The reso-  
4 lution of the other House shall not be  
5 referred to a committee.

6 “(II) FINAL PASSAGE.—With re-  
7 spect to a resolution described in sub-  
8 paragraph (A) of the House receiving  
9 the resolution—

10 “(aa) the procedure in that  
11 House shall be the same as if no  
12 resolution had been received from  
13 the other House; but

14 “(bb) the vote on final pas-  
15 sage shall be on the resolution of  
16 the other House.

17 “(vi) DEBATE ON VETO MESSAGE.—  
18 In the Senate, debate on a veto message  
19 from the President on a joint resolution  
20 described in subparagraph (A), including  
21 all debatable motions and appeals in con-  
22 nection therewith, shall be limited to not  
23 more than 10 hours, equally divided be-  
24 tween those favoring and those opposing  
25 the resolution. A motion further to limit

1 debate is in order and not debatable. No  
2 amendment to the veto message shall be in  
3 order. The vote on passage of the joint res-  
4 olution following the veto message shall  
5 occur immediately following the conclusion  
6 of debate.

7 “(E) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Sub-  
8 paragraphs (A) through (D) are enacted by  
9 Congress—

10 “(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking  
11 power of the Senate and the House of Rep-  
12 resentatives, respectively, and as such it is  
13 deemed a part of the rules of each House,  
14 respectively, but applicable only with re-  
15 spect to procedure to be followed in this  
16 paragraph, and it supersedes other rules  
17 only to the extent that it is inconsistent  
18 with such rules; and

19 “(ii) with full recognition of the con-  
20 stitutional right of either House to change  
21 the rules (so far as relating to the proce-  
22 dure of that House) at any time, in the  
23 same manner, and to the same extent as in  
24 the case of any other rule of that House.

1           “(F) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINUANCE;  
2           SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITHDRAWALS.—

3           “(i) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINU-  
4           ANCE.—A withdrawal made under section  
5           12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
6           Lands Act shall not take effect (or con-  
7           tinue), if the Congress enacts a joint reso-  
8           lution of disapproval, described under sub-  
9           paragraph (A), of the withdrawal.

10          “(ii) SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITH-  
11          DRAWALS.—A withdrawal that does not  
12          take effect (or does not continue) under  
13          clause (i) may not be reissued in substan-  
14          tially the same form, and a new withdrawal  
15          that is substantially the same as such a  
16          withdrawal may not be issued, unless the  
17          reissued or new withdrawal is specifically  
18          authorized by a law enacted after the date  
19          of the joint resolution disapproving the  
20          original withdrawal.

21          “(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No determina-  
22          tion, finding, action, or omission under this  
23          paragraph shall be subject to judicial review.

24          “(H) SUBMISSION OF COVERED AGENCY  
25          ACTION TO CONGRESS.—

1           “(i) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT.—Any  
2 covered agency action subject to the dis-  
3 approval procedures under this subsection  
4 shall be submitted to Congress by the  
5 agency responsible for the action. Such  
6 submission must include the text of the  
7 agency action, a concise summary of the  
8 action, and the date on which the action  
9 was taken.

10           “(ii) TRANSMITTAL.—For purposes of  
11 this subsection, the date of submission of  
12 the covered agency action to Congress shall  
13 be the later of—

14           “(I) the date on which the agen-  
15 cy submits the action to both the  
16 President of the Senate and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representa-  
18 tives; or

19           “(II) the date on which the agen-  
20 cy makes the action publicly available  
21 in the Federal Register or by another  
22 publicly accessible method.

23           “(iii) START OF PROCEDURES.—The  
24 submission of the covered agency action  
25 under clause (i) shall trigger the expedited

1 parliamentary procedures set forth in this  
2 subsection. No resolution under this sub-  
3 section may be considered in either cham-  
4 ber until such submission has occurred.

5 “(iv) NOTICE OF SUBMISSION.—Upon  
6 receipt of a covered agency action, the  
7 President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
8 the House of Representatives shall cause a  
9 notice of such submission to be published  
10 in the Congressional Record on the next  
11 calendar day of their respective chambers.

12 “(5) INTEGRATION WITH 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS  
13 LEASING PROGRAM.—The President may not make a  
14 withdrawal under paragraph (1) that conflicts with  
15 areas included in a lease sale scheduled under an oil  
16 and gas leasing program approved under Section  
17 18.”.

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