

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 678

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Ms. HAGEMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, 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 “Expression of Interest
5 Sensibility Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.**

7 (a) DEADLINE TO ISSUE LEASE.—Section
8 17(b)(1)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
9 226(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “the remainder of
10 the bonus bid, if any,” and inserting “, as applicable, the

1 remainder of the bonus bid, the fee for the expression of
 2 interest under subsection (q)(2)(B),”.

3 (b) EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.—Section 17(q) of
 4 the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(q)) is amended—

5 (1) in the heading, by striking “FEE FOR”;

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 7 graph (3);

8 (3) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
 9 lows:

10 “(1) SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTER-
 11 EST.—A person may, in accordance with procedures
 12 established by the Secretary to carry out this sub-
 13 section, submit an expression of interest in leasing
 14 land available for disposition under this section for
 15 exploration for, and development of, oil or gas.

16 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF FEES.—

17 “(A) NO BID.—If land covered by an ex-
 18 pression of interest submitted under paragraph
 19 (1) is offered at a lease sale and no bid is re-
 20 ceived for such land, the Secretary shall assess
 21 at the time of the sale a fee for the expression
 22 of interest against the person that submitted
 23 the first expression of interest for the land.

24 “(B) SUCCESSFUL BID.—If land covered
 25 by an expression of interest submitted under

1 paragraph (1) receives a successful bid at a
2 lease sale, the Secretary shall assess a fee for
3 the expression of interest against the successful
4 bidder.”;

5 (4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
7 (2)”;

8 (5) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(4) TERM.—An expression of interest sub-
10 mitted under this section shall remain active for a
11 term of not less than 5 years unless the land covered
12 by the expression of interest is offered at a lease
13 sale.”.

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