

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1274

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

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 “Protecting American  
5 Households From Rising Energy Costs Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **PETROLEUM PRODUCT.**—The term “petro-  
9 leum product” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 3 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act  
2 (42 U.S.C. 6202).

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Energy.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON EXPORTS OF LIQUEFIED NAT-**  
6 **URAL GAS AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO**  
7 **CERTAIN COUNTRIES.**

8 (a) PROHIBITIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
10 provision of law, unless a waiver has been issued  
11 under subsection (b), no person or entity may export  
12 or resell, either directly or indirectly through 1 or  
13 more third parties, liquefied natural gas or petro-  
14 leum products—

15 (A) to any entity operating in the territory  
16 of, or territory owned by, the People’s Republic  
17 of China (or the Chinese Communist Party),  
18 the Russian Federation, the Democratic Peo-  
19 ple’s Republic of Korea, or the Islamic Republic  
20 of Iran; or

21 (B) to any entity that is under the owner-  
22 ship or control, as determined by the Secretary  
23 in consultation with the Secretary of the Treas-  
24 ury and the Secretary of Commerce, of the Peo-  
25 ple’s Republic of China (or the Chinese Com-

1           munist Party), the Russian Federation, the  
2           Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the  
3           Islamic Republic of Iran.

4           (2) RESPONSIBILITY.—It is the responsibility of  
5           the export authorization holder to ensure compliance  
6           with this Act and any other applicable law or policy,  
7           including rules, regulations, orders, and other deter-  
8           minations made by—

9                   (A) the Office of Foreign Assets Control of  
10                  the Department of the Treasury; and

11                   (B) the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-  
12                  mission.

13           (b) WAIVER.—

14                   (1) IN GENERAL.—On application by an ex-  
15                  porter, the Secretary may waive, prior to the date of  
16                  the applicable contract, the prohibitions described in  
17                  subsection (a) with respect to the sale of liquefied  
18                  natural gas or petroleum products.

19                   (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may issue a  
20                  waiver under this subsection only if the Secretary  
21                  determines that an imminent and acute national se-  
22                  curity emergency to the United States exists and  
23                  that other means of responding to the emergency  
24                  would be inadequate.

1           (3) APPLICATIONS.—An exporter seeking a  
2           waiver under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-  
3           retary an application by such date, in such form,  
4           and containing such information as the Secretary  
5           may require.

6           (4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15  
7           days after issuing a waiver under this subsection,  
8           the Secretary shall provide a copy of the waiver to  
9           the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of  
10          the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Com-  
11          merce of the House of Representatives.

12          (c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary may promulgate,  
13          amend, and rescind rules and regulations, as the Secretary  
14          determines to be appropriate, to carry out this Act.

15   **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

16          (a) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for a per-  
17          son to violate, attempt to violate, conspire to violate, or  
18          cause a violation of any prohibition of, or any waiver, li-  
19          cense, order, or regulation issued pursuant to this Act.

20          (b) CIVIL PENALTY.—

21                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may impose a  
22                  civil penalty on any person who commits an unlawful  
23                  act described in subsection (a) in an amount not to  
24                  exceed the greater of—

25                                  (A) \$250,000,000; and

1           (B) an amount that is twice the amount of  
2           the transaction that is the basis of the violation  
3           with respect to which the penalty is imposed.

4           (2) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEAR-  
5           ING.—A civil penalty under paragraph (1) may be  
6           imposed by the Secretary by an order made on the  
7           record after providing written notice to the person to  
8           be assessed the civil penalty and an opportunity for  
9           a hearing in accordance with this section and sec-  
10          tions 554 through 557 of title 5, United States  
11          Code.

12          (3) CIVIL ACTION.—If a person described in  
13          paragraph (1) fails to pay a civil penalty imposed by  
14          the Secretary under this subsection after receiving  
15          notice and an opportunity for a hearing under para-  
16          graph (2), the Secretary may bring a civil action  
17          against that person in an appropriate district court  
18          of the United States.

19          (4) RELIEF.—If a civil action brought by the  
20          Secretary under paragraph (3) is successful, the ap-  
21          plicable court may grant appropriate relief, includ-  
22          ing—

23                  (A) a temporary injunction;

24                  (B) a permanent injunction; and

1 (C) enforcing the civil penalties described  
2 in paragraph (1).

3 (c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly  
4 commits, knowingly attempts to commit, or knowingly  
5 conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission  
6 of, an unlawful act described in subsection (a) shall be  
7 fined not more than \$100,000,000, imprisoned for not  
8 more than 20 years, or both.

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