

H. Res. 453

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

April 3, 2000.

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1753 together with the Senate amendments thereto, and to have: (1) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the title; and (2) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the text with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Methane Hydrate Re-
3 search and Development Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **CONTRACT.**—The term “contract” means a
7 procurement contract within the meaning of section
8 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

9 (2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The term “co-
10 operative agreement” means a cooperative agree-

1 ment within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31,
2 United States Code.

3 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

5 (4) GRANT.—The term “grant” means a grant
6 awarded under a grant agreement, within the mean-
7 ing of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

8 (5) INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.—The term “in-
9 dustrial enterprise” means a private, nongovern-
10 mental enterprise that has an expertise or capability
11 that relates to methane hydrate research and devel-
12 opment.

13 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
14 term “institution of higher education” means an in-
15 stitution of higher education, within the meaning of
16 section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)).

18 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assist-
20 ant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

21 (8) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term
22 “Secretary of Commerce” means the Secretary of
23 Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the
24 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

1 the Department of Energy relating to methane hy-
2 drate research and development.

3 (4) MEETINGS.—The individuals designated
4 under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 270
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and
6 not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter
7 to—

8 (A) review the progress of the program
9 under paragraph (1); and

10 (B) make recommendations on future ac-
11 tivities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

12 (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREE-
13 MENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS,
14 AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.—

15 (1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-
16 rying out the program of methane hydrate research
17 and development authorized by this section, the Sec-
18 retary may award grants or contracts to, or enter
19 into cooperative agreements with, institutions of
20 higher education and industrial enterprises to—

21 (A) conduct basic and applied research to
22 identify, explore, assess, and develop methane
23 hydrate as a source of energy;

1 (B) assist in developing technologies re-
2 quired for efficient and environmentally sound
3 development of methane hydrate resources;

4 (C) undertake research programs to pro-
5 vide safe means of transport and storage of
6 methane produced from methane hydrates;

7 (D) promote education and training in
8 methane hydrate resource research and re-
9 source development;

10 (E) conduct basic and applied research to
11 assess and mitigate the environmental impacts
12 of hydrate degassing (including both natural
13 degassing and degassing associated with com-
14 mercial development);

15 (F) develop technologies to reduce the
16 risks of drilling through methane hydrates; and

17 (G) conduct exploratory drilling in support
18 of the activities authorized by this paragraph.

19 (2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—

20 Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be
21 made available based on a competitive merit-based
22 process.

23 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish
24 an advisory panel consisting of experts from industrial en-

1 terprises, institutions of higher education, and Federal
2 agencies to—

3 (1) advise the Secretary on potential applica-
4 tions of methane hydrate;

5 (2) assist in developing recommendations and
6 priorities for the methane hydrate research and de-
7 velopment program carried out under subsection
8 (a)(1); and

9 (3) not later than 2 years after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the
11 panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a re-
12 port on the anticipated impact on global climate
13 change from—

14 (A) methane hydrate formation;

15 (B) methane hydrate degassing (including
16 natural degassing and degassing associated with
17 commercial development); and

18 (C) the consumption of natural gas pro-
19 duced from methane hydrates.

20 Not more than 25 percent of the individuals serving on
21 the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

22 (d) LIMITATIONS.—

23 (1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
24 than 5 percent of the amount made available to
25 carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used

1 by the Secretary for expenses associated with the ad-
2 ministration of the program carried out under sub-
3 section (a)(1).

4 (2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds
5 made available to carry out this section may be used
6 for the construction of a new building or the acquisi-
7 tion, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an exist-
8 ing building (including site grading and improve-
9 ment and architect fees).

10 (e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In car-
11 rying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—

12 (1) facilitate and develop partnerships among
13 government, industrial enterprises, and institutions
14 of higher education to research, identify, assess, and
15 explore methane hydrate resources;

16 (2) undertake programs to develop basic infor-
17 mation necessary for promoting long-term interest in
18 methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

19 (3) ensure that the data and information devel-
20 oped through the program are accessible and widely
21 disseminated as needed and appropriate;

22 (4) promote cooperation among agencies that
23 are developing technologies that may hold promise
24 for methane hydrate resource development; and

1 (5) report annually to Congress on accomplish-
2 ments under this section.

3 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POL-**
4 **ICY ACT OF 1970.**

5 Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act
6 of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (6)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as
11 subparagraph (H); and

12 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
13 the following:

14 “(G) for purposes of this section and sec-
15 tions 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate;
16 and”;

17 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
18 graph (8); and

19 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(7) The term ‘methane hydrate’ means—

22 “(A) a methane clathrate that is in the
23 form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline ma-
24 terial and is stable and occurs naturally in
25 deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

1 “(B) other natural gas hydrates found in
2 association with deep-ocean and permafrost de-
3 posits of methane hydrate.”.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
6 retary of Energy to carry out this Act—

7 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

8 (2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;

9 (3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

10 (4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

11 (5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

12 Amounts authorized under this section shall remain avail-
13 able until expended.

14 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

15 Section 3 of this Act shall cease to be effective after
16 the end of fiscal year 2005.

17 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY.**

18 The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the
19 National Research Council for such council to conduct a
20 study of the progress made under the methane hydrate
21 research and development program implemented pursuant
22 to this Act, and to make recommendations for future
23 methane hydrate research and development needs. The
24 Secretary shall transmit to the Congress, not later than
25 September 30, 2004, a report containing the findings and

1 recommendations of the National Research Council under
2 this section.

3 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

4 The Secretary of Energy shall provide to the Com-
5 mittee on Science of the House of Representatives copies
6 of any report or study that the Department of Energy pre-
7 pares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.

Attest:

Clerk.