

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4625

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2004

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, 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 “Soda Ash Royalty Re-
3 duction Act of 2004”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The combination of global competitive pres-
7 sures, flat domestic demand, and spiraling costs of
8 production threaten the future of the United States
9 soda ash industry.

10 (2) Despite booming world demand, growth in
11 United States exports of soda ash since 1997 has
12 been flat, with most of the world’s largest markets
13 for such growth, including Brazil, the People’s Re-
14 public of China, India, the countries of eastern Eu-
15 rope, and the Republic of South Africa, have been
16 closed by protectionist policies.

17 (3) The People’s Republic of China is the prime
18 competitor of the United States in soda ash produc-
19 tion, and recently supplanted the United States as
20 the largest producer of soda ash in the world.

21 (4) Over 700 jobs have been lost in the United
22 States soda ash industry since the Department of
23 the Interior increased the royalty rate on soda ash
24 produced on Federal land, in 1996.

25 (5) Reduction of the royalty rate on soda ash
26 produced on Federal land will provide needed relief

1 to the United States soda ash industry and allow it
2 to increase export growth and competitiveness in
3 emerging world markets, and create new jobs in the
4 United States.

5 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN ROYALTY RATE ON SODA ASH.**

6 Notwithstanding section 102(a)(9) of the Federal
7 Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
8 1701(a)(9)), section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30
9 U.S.C. 262), and the terms of any lease under that Act,
10 the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the out-
11 put of sodium compounds and related products at the
12 point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 5-
13 year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this
14 Act shall be 2 percent.

15 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

16 After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of
18 the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary
19 of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects
20 of the royalty reduction under this Act, including—

21 (1) the amount of sodium compounds and re-
22 lated products at the point of shipment to market
23 from Federal land during that 4-year period;

24 (2) the number of jobs that have been created
25 or maintained during the royalty reduction period;

1 (3) the total amount of royalty paid to the
2 United States on the quantity or gross value of the
3 output of sodium compounds and related products at
4 the point of shipment to market produced during
5 that 4-year period, and the portion of such royalty
6 paid to States; and

7 (4) a recommendation of whether the reduced
8 royalty rate should apply after the end of the 5-year
9 period beginning on the date of the enactment of
10 this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives July 19, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.