

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6735

To terminate the application of restrictions on exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in areas of the outer Continental Shelf adjacent to Cuba.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. HOBSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To terminate the application of restrictions on exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in areas of the outer Continental Shelf adjacent to Cuba.

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 “Bolster America’s Re-
5 sources through Responsible Exploratory Leasing Act” or
6 the “BARREL Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF PROHIBITIONS ON EXPENDI-**
2 **TURES FOR, AND WITHDRAWALS FROM, OFF-**
3 **SHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING FOR AREAS OF**
4 **OCS ADJACENT TO CUBA.**

5 (a) PROHIBITIONS ON EXPENDITURES.—All provi-
6 sions of Federal law that prohibit the expenditure of ap-
7 propriated funds to conduct oil and natural gas leasing
8 and preleasing activities for any area of the Outer Conti-
9 nental Shelf of the United States shall have no force or
10 effect with respect to any location on the Outer Conti-
11 nental Shelf in the Straits of Florida that is—

12 (1) inside the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Outer
13 Continental Shelf Planning Area or the Straits of
14 Florida Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area;

15 (2) within 50 miles of the United State-Cuba
16 marine boundary;

17 (3) west of 83° W longitude;

18 (4) east of 86°41' W longitude; and

19 (5) outside of the Florida Keys National Marine
20 Sanctuary.

21 (b) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWALS.—All with-
22 drawals of Federal submerged lands of the Outer Conti-
23 nental Shelf from leasing, including withdrawals by the
24 President under the authority of section 12(a) of the
25 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(a)),
26 are hereby revoked and are no longer in effect with respect

1 to the leasing of any location on the Outer Continental
2 Shelf described in subsection (a) for exploration for, and
3 development and production of, oil and natural gas.

4 (c) TERMINATION OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF
5 FUNDS.—Section 104 of division F of the Consolidated
6 Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–161; 121 Stat.
7 2118) shall not apply with respect to any location on the
8 Outer Continental Shelf described in subsection (a).

9 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF LEASE SALES.—The Sec-
10 retary of the Interior shall promptly conduct lease sales
11 for locations on the Outer Continental Shelf described in
12 subsection (a) in accordance with section 8 of the Outer
13 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) and other
14 applicable provisions of Federal law.

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