

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6758

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to promptly commence an oil and gas leasing program for public lands within the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. BONNER, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAYES, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. McCRERY, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. DENT, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to promptly commence an oil and gas leasing program for public lands within the Coastal Plain of Alaska, 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 “Furthering Renewable
3 Energy and Exploration Act” or the “FREE Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OPENING OF COASTAL PLAIN OF ALASKA TO OIL**
5 **AND GAS LEASING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1002(i)
7 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
8 of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 3142(i)), the Secretary of the Interior
9 shall promptly commence an oil and gas leasing program,
10 pursuant to the mineral leasing laws, for public lands
11 within the Coastal Plain of Alaska. Such leasing program,
12 including subsequent development and production under
13 leases issued under such program, is deemed to be a com-
14 patible use for purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge
15 System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et
16 seq.).

17 (b) COASTAL PLAIN OF ALASKA.—For purposes of
18 this section, the term “Coastal Plain of Alaska” means
19 that area described in appendix I to part 37 of title 50,
20 Code of Federal Regulations.

21 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) Section 1003 of the Alaska National Inter-
23 est Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.
24 3143) is repealed.

1 (2) The table of contents in section 1 of such
2 Act is amended by striking the item relating to sec-
3 tion 1003.

4 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF REVENUES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is estab-
6 lished in the Treasury a separate account which shall be
7 known as the Energy Independence Trust Fund (in this
8 section referred to as the “Fund”).

9 (b) DEPOSITS.—There shall be deposited into the
10 Fund—

11 (1) an amount equal to the amount of rental
12 payments and royalties received by the United
13 States each fiscal year under leases issued under
14 section 2; and

15 (2) an amount equal to the amount of Federal
16 income tax received by the United States each fiscal
17 year attributable to sales of oil and gas produced
18 under leases under section 2.

19 (c) USE.—Of the amounts deposited into the Fund
20 each fiscal year—

21 (1) 50 percent shall be paid to the State of
22 Alaska; and

23 (2) the remainder shall be available to the Sec-
24 retary of Agriculture, of which—

1 (A) 50 percent shall be used to provide
2 business and industry loan guarantees under
3 section 310B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm
4 and Rural Development Act in the then suc-
5 ceeding fiscal year; and

6 (B) 50 percent shall be used for the Bio-
7 mass Research and Development Initiative es-
8 tablished under section 9008(e) of the Farm
9 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
10 U.S.C. 8108(e)) in the then succeeding fiscal
11 year.

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