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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Offshore Lands Au-  
5 thorities Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. NULLIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL WITHDRAWALS**  
2 **OF UNLEASED OFFSHORE LAND.**

3 The following Presidential withdrawals of unleased  
4 offshore land shall have no force or effect:

5 (1) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
6 20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
7 Certain Portions of the United States Arctic Outer  
8 Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating  
9 to the Chukchi Sea Planning Area and the Beaufort  
10 Sea Planning Area).

11 (2) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
12 16, 2014, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
13 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
14 nental Shelf From Leasing Disposition” (relating to  
15 the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area).

16 (3) Section 3 of Executive Order 13754 (81  
17 Fed. Reg. 90669; relating to Northern Bering Sea  
18 climate resilience).

19 (4) Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13990 (86  
20 Fed. Reg. 7037; relating to reinstating Executive  
21 Order 13754 and the Presidential Memorandum of  
22 December 20, 2016).

23 (5) The Presidential Memorandum of March  
24 13, 2023, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
25 Certain Areas off the United States Arctic Coast of

1 the Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Gas Leas-  
2 ing” (relating to the Beaufort Planning Area).

3 (6) The Presidential Memorandum of December  
4 20, 2016, titled “Memorandum on Withdrawal of  
5 Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer  
6 Continental Shelf From Mineral Leasing” (relating  
7 to canyons and canyon complexes offshore the Atlan-  
8 tic coast).

9 (7) The Presidential Memorandum of January  
10 6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of  
11 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
12 nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-  
13 lating to the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, and Pacific  
14 areas).

15 (8) The Presidential Memorandum of January  
16 6, 2025, titled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of  
17 Certain Areas of the United States Outer Conti-  
18 nental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing” (re-  
19 lating to the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resil-  
20 ience Area).

21 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO**  
22 **WITHDRAW UNLEASED OFFSHORE LANDS.**

23 Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands  
24 Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(a)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “(a)The President” and insert-  
2           ing the following:

3           “(a) WITHDRAWAL OF UNLEASED LANDS BY THE  
4           PRESIDENT.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
6           graphs (2) and (3), the President”;

7           (2) by inserting “Beginning on the date of en-  
8           actment of the Offshore Lands Authorities Act of  
9           2025, the President shall transmit a withdrawal  
10          made under the preceding sentence to the President  
11          of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
12          resentatives.” after “outer Continental Shelf.”; and

13          (3) by adding at the end the following:

14          “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

15                 “(A) ACRES.—A withdrawal under para-  
16                 graph (1) may not exceed an area larger than  
17                 150,000 acres in total or contiguous with any  
18                 other withdrawal under such paragraph.

19                 “(B) PERIOD.—A withdrawal under para-  
20                 graph (1) may not be made for a period longer  
21                 than 20 years.

22                 “(C) CUMULATIVE WITHDRAWALS.—No  
23                 President may, under paragraph (1), withdraw  
24                 more than 500,000 acres cumulatively without  
25                 obtaining Congressional approval.

1           “(3) ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—The President  
2           may not withdraw unleased lands of the outer Conti-  
3           nental Shelf under paragraph (1) unless—

4                   “(A) the Secretary completed a quan-  
5                   titative and qualitative geophysical and geologi-  
6                   cal mineral resource assessment of the lands to  
7                   be withdrawn during the 5-year period ending  
8                   on the date of such withdrawal;

9                   “(B) the Secretary, in consultation with  
10                  the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of  
11                  Energy, the Secretary of Defense, and the Sec-  
12                  retary of Agriculture, completed an assessment  
13                  of the economic, energy, and national security  
14                  value of mineral deposits identified in the min-  
15                  eral resource assessment completed under sub-  
16                  paragraph (A);

17                  “(C) the Secretary completed an assess-  
18                  ment of the expected reduction in future Fed-  
19                  eral revenues resulting from the proposed with-  
20                  drawal to the Treasury, States (including from  
21                  allocations made under section 105 of the Gulf  
22                  of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43  
23                  U.S.C. 1331 note)), the Land and Water Con-  
24                  servation Fund, and the Historic Preservation  
25                  Fund; and

1           “(D) the Secretary submits to the Commit-  
2           tees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Armed  
3           Services, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign  
4           Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
5           Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
6           estry, Armed Services, Energy and Natural Re-  
7           sources, and Foreign Relations of the Senate a  
8           report that includes the results of the assess-  
9           ments completed under this subsection.

10           “(4) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL PROCE-  
11           DURE.—

12           “(A) JOINT RESOLUTION DEFINED.—For  
13           the purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘joint  
14           resolution’ means only a joint resolution, which  
15           may not have a preamble, the matter after the  
16           resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That  
17           Congress disapproves the withdrawal made  
18           under section 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental  
19           Shelf Lands Act on \_\_\_\_\_, relating to  
20           \_\_\_\_\_, and such withdrawal shall have no  
21           force or effect.’ (the blank spaces being appro-  
22           priately filled in).

23           “(B) REFERRAL.—A joint resolution de-  
24           scribed in subparagraph (A) shall be referred to

1           the committees in each House of Congress with  
2           jurisdiction.

3           “(C) DISCHARGE.—In the Senate, if the  
4           committee to which is referred a joint resolution  
5           described in subparagraph (A) has not reported  
6           such joint resolution (or a joint resolution  
7           aimed at the same Presidential withdrawal) at  
8           the end of 20 calendar days after the submis-  
9           sion or introduction of legislation to disapprove  
10          the withdrawal, such committee may be dis-  
11          charged from further consideration of such joint  
12          resolution and placed on the appropriate cal-  
13          endar of the Senate upon a petition supported  
14          in writing by 30 Members of the Senate.

15          “(D) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

16                 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate,  
17                 when the committee to which a joint reso-  
18                 lution is referred has reported, or when a  
19                 committee is discharged (under subpara-  
20                 graph (C)) from further consideration of, a  
21                 joint resolution described in subparagraph  
22                 (A), it is at any time thereafter in order  
23                 (even though a previous motion to the  
24                 same effect has been disagreed to) for a  
25                 motion to proceed to the consideration of

1 the joint resolution, and all points of order  
2 against the joint resolution (and against  
3 consideration of joint resolution) are  
4 waived. The motion is not subject to  
5 amendment, to a motion to postpone, or to  
6 a motion to proceed to the consideration of  
7 other business. A motion to reconsider the  
8 vote by which the motion is agreed to or  
9 disagreed to shall not be in order. If a mo-  
10 tion to proceed to the consideration of the  
11 joint resolution is agreed to, the joint reso-  
12 lution shall remain the unfinished business  
13 of the Senate until disposed of.

14 “(ii) DEBATE.—In the Senate, debate  
15 on the joint resolution, and on all debat-  
16 able motions and appeals in connection  
17 therewith, shall be limited to not more  
18 than 10 hours, which shall be divided  
19 equally between those favoring and those  
20 opposing the resolution. A motion further  
21 to limit debate is in order and not debat-  
22 able. An amendment to, or a motion to  
23 postpone, or a motion to proceed to the  
24 consideration of other business, or a mo-



1                   tion to recommit the resolution is not in  
2                   order.

3                   “(iii) FINAL PASSAGE.—In the Sen-  
4                   ate, immediately following the conclusion  
5                   of the debate on a resolution described in  
6                   subparagraph (A), and a single quorum  
7                   call at the conclusion of the debate if re-  
8                   quested in accordance with the rules of the  
9                   Senate, the vote on final passage of the  
10                  resolution shall occur.

11                  “(iv) APPEALS.—In the Senate, ap-  
12                  peals from the decisions of the Chair relat-  
13                  ing to the application of the rules of the  
14                  Senate to the procedure relating to a reso-  
15                  lution described in subparagraph (A) shall  
16                  be decided without debate.

17                  “(v) TREATMENT IF OTHER HOUSE  
18                  HAS ACTED.—If, before the passage by one  
19                  House of a resolution of that House de-  
20                  scribed in subparagraph (A), that House  
21                  receives from the other House a resolution  
22                  described in subparagraph (A), then the  
23                  following procedures shall apply:

1                   “(I) NONREFERRAL.—The reso-  
2                   lution of the other House shall not be  
3                   referred to a committee.

4                   “(II) FINAL PASSAGE.—With re-  
5                   spect to a resolution described in sub-  
6                   paragraph (A) of the House receiving  
7                   the resolution—

8                   “(aa) the procedure in that  
9                   House shall be the same as if no  
10                  resolution had been received from  
11                  the other House; but

12                  “(bb) the vote on final pas-  
13                  sage shall be on the resolution of  
14                  the other House.

15                  “(vi) DEBATE ON VETO MESSAGE.—  
16                  In the Senate, debate on a veto message  
17                  from the President on a joint resolution  
18                  described in subparagraph (A), including  
19                  all debatable motions and appeals in con-  
20                  nection therewith, shall be limited to not  
21                  more than 10 hours, equally divided be-  
22                  tween those favoring and those opposing  
23                  the resolution. A motion further to limit  
24                  debate is in order and not debatable. No  
25                  amendment to the veto message shall be in

1 order. The vote on passage of the joint res-  
2 olution following the veto message shall  
3 occur immediately following the conclusion  
4 of debate.

5 “(E) CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Sub-  
6 paragraphs (A) through (D) are enacted by  
7 Congress—

8 “(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking  
9 power of the Senate and the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives, respectively, and as such it is  
11 deemed a part of the rules of each House,  
12 respectively, but applicable only with re-  
13 spect to procedure to be followed in this  
14 paragraph, and it supersedes other rules  
15 only to the extent that it is inconsistent  
16 with such rules; and

17 “(ii) with full recognition of the con-  
18 stitutional right of either House to change  
19 the rules (so far as relating to the proce-  
20 dure of that House) at any time, in the  
21 same manner, and to the same extent as in  
22 the case of any other rule of that House.

23 “(F) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINUANCE;  
24 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITHDRAWALS.—

1           “(i) LACK OF EFFECT OR CONTINU-  
2 ANCE.—A withdrawal made under section  
3 12(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
4 Lands Act shall not take effect (or con-  
5 tinue), if the Congress enacts a joint reso-  
6 lution of disapproval, described under sub-  
7 paragraph (A), of the withdrawal.

8           “(ii) SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR WITH-  
9 DRAWALS.—A withdrawal that does not  
10 take effect (or does not continue) under  
11 clause (i) may not be reissued in substan-  
12 tially the same form, and a new withdrawal  
13 that is substantially the same as such a  
14 withdrawal may not be issued, unless the  
15 reissued or new withdrawal is specifically  
16 authorized by a law enacted after the date  
17 of the joint resolution disapproving the  
18 original withdrawal.

19           “(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No determina-  
20 tion, finding, action, or omission under this  
21 paragraph shall be subject to judicial review.

22           “(H) SUBMISSION OF COVERED AGENCY  
23 ACTION TO CONGRESS.—

24           “(i) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT.—Any  
25 covered agency action subject to the dis-

1 approval procedures under this subsection  
2 shall be submitted to Congress by the  
3 agency responsible for the action. Such  
4 submission must include the text of the  
5 agency action, a concise summary of the  
6 action, and the date on which the action  
7 was taken.

8 “(ii) TRANSMITTAL.—For purposes of  
9 this subsection, the date of submission of  
10 the covered agency action to Congress shall  
11 be the later of—

12 “(I) the date on which the agen-  
13 cy submits the action to both the  
14 President of the Senate and the  
15 Speaker of the House of Representa-  
16 tives; or

17 “(II) the date on which the agen-  
18 cy makes the action publicly available  
19 in the Federal Register or by another  
20 publicly accessible method.

21 “(iii) START OF PROCEDURES.—The  
22 submission of the covered agency action  
23 under clause (i) shall trigger the expedited  
24 parliamentary procedures set forth in this  
25 subsection. No resolution under this sub-

1 section may be considered in either cham-  
2 ber until such submission has occurred.

3 “(iv) NOTICE OF SUBMISSION.—Upon  
4 receipt of a covered agency action, the  
5 President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
6 the House of Representatives shall cause a  
7 notice of such submission to be published  
8 in the Congressional Record on the next  
9 calendar day of their respective chambers.

10 “(5) INTEGRATION WITH 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS  
11 LEASING PROGRAM.—The President may not make a  
12 withdrawal under paragraph (1) that conflicts with  
13 areas included in a lease sale scheduled under an oil  
14 and gas leasing program approved under Section  
15 18.”.