

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2309

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 1997

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

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## A BILL

To permit the leasing of mineral rights, in any case in which the Indian owners of an allotment that is located within the boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and held in trust by the United States have executed leases to more than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that allotment.

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. LEASES OF ALLOTTED LANDS OF THE FORT**  
4                               **BERTHOLD INDIAN RESERVATION.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—

1           (1) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF THE INTE-  
2           RIOR.—

3           (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any  
4           other provision of law (including the Act of  
5           March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25  
6           U.S.C. 396) and the regulations issued under  
7           that Act), the Secretary of the Interior or a  
8           designee of the Secretary may approve mineral  
9           leases of an allotment described in paragraph  
10          (2) in any case in which the Indian owners of  
11          that allotment have executed leases to more  
12          than 50 percent of the mineral estate of that al-  
13          lotment.

14          (B) BENEFITS OF LEASES.—At such time  
15          as mineral leases on an allotment have been ap-  
16          proved for all Indian ownership interests pursu-  
17          ant to this section, all Indian owners of the al-  
18          lotment shall be entitled to the benefits of the  
19          leases.

20          (2) ALLOTMENT.—An allotment described in  
21          this paragraph is an allotment that—

22                  (A) is located in the Fort Berthold Indian  
23                  Reservation, North Dakota; and

24                  (B) is held in trust by the United States.

1           (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This Act supersedes  
2 the Act of March 3, 1909 (35 Stat. 783, chapter 263; 25  
3 U.S.C. 396) only to the extent provided in subsection (a).

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