

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 424

Providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 1753 and the Senate amendments thereto.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 1753 and the Senate amendments thereto.

1 *Resolved*, That, upon the adoption of this resolution,
2 the House shall be considered to have taken from the
3 Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1753 together with the Sen-
4 ate amendments thereto, and to have (1) concurred in the
5 amendment of the Senate to the title, and (2) concurred
6 in the amendment of the Senate to the text with an
7 amendment as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to
8 be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Methane Hydrate Re-
3 search and Development Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **CONTRACT.**—The term “contract” means a
7 procurement contract within the meaning of section
8 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

9 (2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The term “co-
10 operative agreement” means a cooperative agree-
11 ment within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31,
12 United States Code.

13 (3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
14 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

15 (4) **GRANT.**—The term “grant” means a grant
16 awarded under a grant agreement, within the mean-
17 ing of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

18 (5) **INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.**—The term “in-
19 dustrial enterprise” means a private, nongovern-
20 mental enterprise that has an expertise or capability
21 that relates to methane hydrate research and devel-
22 opment.

23 (6) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The
24 term “institution of higher education” means an in-
25 stitution of higher education, within the meaning of

1 section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
2 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)).

3 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assist-
5 ant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

6 (8) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term
7 “Secretary of Commerce” means the Secretary of
8 Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the
9 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

10 (9) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term “Sec-
11 retary of Defense” means the Secretary of Defense,
12 acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

13 (10) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term
14 “Secretary of the Interior” means the Secretary of
15 the Interior, acting through the Director of the
16 United States Geological Survey and the Director of
17 the Minerals Management Service.

18 **SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
19 **MENT PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—

21 (1) COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later
22 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
23 Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
24 retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the
25 Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall

1 commence a program of methane hydrate research
2 and development in accordance with this section.

3 (2) DESIGNATIONS.—The Secretary, the Sec-
4 retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the
5 Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall des-
6 ignate individuals to carry out this section.

7 (3) COORDINATION.—The individual designated
8 by the Secretary shall coordinate all activities within
9 the Department of Energy relating to methane hy-
10 drate research and development.

11 (4) MEETINGS.—The individuals designated
12 under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 270
13 days after the date of enactment of this Act and not
14 less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

15 (A) review the progress of the program
16 under paragraph (1); and

17 (B) make recommendations on future ac-
18 tivities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

19 (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREE-
20 MENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS,
21 AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.—

22 (1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-
23 rying out the program of methane hydrate research
24 and development authorized by this section, the Sec-
25 retary may award grants or contracts to, or enter

1 into cooperative agreements with, institutions of
2 higher education and industrial enterprises to—

3 (A) conduct basic and applied research to
4 identify, explore, assess, and develop methane
5 hydrate as a source of energy;

6 (B) assist in developing technologies re-
7 quired for efficient and environmentally sound
8 development of methane hydrate resources;

9 (C) undertake research programs to pro-
10 vide safe means of transport and storage of
11 methane produced from methane hydrates;

12 (D) promote education and training in
13 methane hydrate resource research and re-
14 source development;

15 (E) conduct basic and applied research to
16 assess and mitigate the environmental impacts
17 of hydrate degassing (including both natural
18 degassing and degassing associated with com-
19 mercial development);

20 (F) develop technologies to reduce the
21 risks of drilling through methane hydrates; and

22 (G) conduct exploratory drilling in support
23 of the activities authorized by this paragraph.

24 (2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—

25 Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be

1 made available based on a competitive merit-based
2 process.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish
4 an advisory panel consisting of experts from industrial en-
5 terprises, institutions of higher education, and Federal
6 agencies to—

7 (1) advise the Secretary on potential applica-
8 tions of methane hydrate;

9 (2) assist in developing recommendations and
10 priorities for the methane hydrate research and de-
11 velopment program carried out under subsection
12 (a)(1); and

13 (3) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
14 actment of this Act, and at such later dates as the
15 panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a re-
16 port on the anticipated impact on global climate
17 change from—

18 (A) methane hydrate formation;

19 (B) methane hydrate degassing (including
20 natural degassing and degassing associated with
21 commercial development); and

22 (C) the consumption of natural gas pro-
23 duced from methane hydrates.

24 Not more than twenty-five percent of the individuals serv-
25 ing on the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

1 (d) LIMITATIONS.—

2 (1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more
3 than 5 percent of the amount made available to
4 carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used
5 by the Secretary for expenses associated with the ad-
6 ministration of the program carried out under sub-
7 section (a)(1).

8 (2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds
9 made available to carry out this section may be used
10 for the construction of a new building or the acqui-
11 sition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an exist-
12 ing building (including site grading and improve-
13 ment and architect fees).

14 (e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In car-
15 rying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—

16 (1) facilitate and develop partnerships among
17 government, industrial enterprises, and institutions
18 of higher education to research, identify, assess, and
19 explore methane hydrate resources;

20 (2) undertake programs to develop basic infor-
21 mation necessary for promoting long-term interest in
22 methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

23 (3) ensure that the data and information devel-
24 oped through the program are accessible and widely
25 disseminated as needed and appropriate;

1 (4) promote cooperation among agencies that
2 are developing technologies that may hold promise
3 for methane hydrate resource development; and

4 (5) report annually to Congress on accomplish-
5 ments under this section.

6 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POL-**
7 **ICY ACT OF 1970.**

8 Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act
9 of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (6)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
12 “and” at the end;

13 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as
14 subparagraph (H); and

15 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
16 the following:

17 “(G) for purposes of this section and sec-
18 tions 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate;
19 and”;

20 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
21 graph (8); and

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(7) The term ‘methane hydrate’ means—

1 “(A) a methane clathrate that is in the
2 form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline ma-
3 terial and is stable and occurs naturally in
4 deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

5 “(B) other natural gas hydrates found in
6 association with deep-ocean and permafrost de-
7 posits of methane hydrate.”.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
10 retary of Energy to carry out this Act—

11 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

12 (2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;

13 (3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

14 (4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

15 (5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

16 Amounts authorized under this section shall remain avail-
17 able until expended.

18 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

19 Section 3 of this Act shall cease to be effective after
20 the end of fiscal year 2005.

21 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STUDY.**

22 The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the
23 National Research Council for such council to conduct a
24 study of the progress made under the methane hydrate
25 research and development program implemented pursuant

1 to this Act, and to make recommendations for future
2 methane hydrate research and development needs. The
3 Secretary shall transmit to the Congress, not later than
4 September 30, 2004, a report containing the findings and
5 recommendations of the National Research Council under
6 this section.

7 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

8 The Secretary of Energy shall provide to the Com-
9 mittee on Science of the House of Representatives copies
10 of any report or study that the Department of Energy pre-
11 pares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.

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