

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 453

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER submitted the following resolution; which was considered under suspension of the rules and agreed to

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 the enactment of
23 this 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 the enactment of this Act and
14 not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter
15 to—

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

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

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

23 (1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-
24 rying out the program of methane hydrate research
25 and development authorized by this section, the Sec-

1 retary may award grants or contracts to, or enter
2 into cooperative agreements with, institutions of
3 higher education and industrial enterprises to—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—
2 Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be
3 made available based on a competitive merit-based
4 process.

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

9 (1) advise the Secretary on potential applica-
10 tions of methane hydrate;

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

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

20 (A) methane hydrate formation;

21 (B) methane hydrate degassing (including
22 natural degassing and degassing associated with
23 commercial development); and

24 (C) the consumption of natural gas pro-
25 duced from methane hydrates.

1 Not more than 25 percent of the individuals serving on
2 the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

3 (d) LIMITATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (1) in paragraph (6)—

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

16 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as
17 subparagraph (H); and

18 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
19 the following:

20 “(G) for purposes of this section and sec-
21 tions 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate;
22 and”;

23 (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-
24 graph (8); and

1 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
 2 lowing:

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

14 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

15 (2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;

16 (3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

17 (4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

18 (5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

19 Amounts authorized under this section shall remain avail-
 20 able until expended.

21 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

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

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

2 The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the
3 National Research Council for such council to conduct a
4 study of the progress made under the methane hydrate
5 research and development program implemented pursuant
6 to this Act, and to make recommendations for future
7 methane hydrate research and development needs. The
8 Secretary shall transmit to the Congress, not later than
9 September 30, 2004, a report containing the findings and
10 recommendations of the National Research Council under
11 this section.

12 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

13 The Secretary of Energy shall provide to the Com-
14 mittee on Science of the House of Representatives copies
15 of any report or study that the Department of Energy pre-
16 pares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.

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