

## **H. Res. 453**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*April 3, 2000.*

*Resolved,* That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 1753 together with the Senate amendments thereto, and to have: (1) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the title; and (2) concurred in the amendment of the Senate to the text with an amendment as follows: In lieu of the matter proposed to 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-

1       ment within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31,  
2       United States Code.

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

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

8           (5) INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.—The term “in-  
9       dustrial enterprise” means a private, nongovern-  
10      mental enterprise that has an expertise or capability  
11      that relates to methane hydrate research and devel-  
12      opment.

13          (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
14      term “institution of higher education” means an in-  
15      stitution of higher education, within the meaning of  
16      section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
17      (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)).

18          (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
19      the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assist-  
20      ant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

21          (8) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term  
22      “Secretary of Commerce” means the Secretary of  
23      Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the  
24      National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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

4 (10) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term  
 5 “Secretary of the Interior” means the Secretary of  
 6 the Interior, acting through the Director of the  
 7 United States Geological Survey and the Director of  
 8 the Minerals Management Service.

9 **SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**  
 10 **MENT PROGRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—

12 (1) COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later  
 13 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of  
 14 this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-  
 15 retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the  
 16 Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall  
 17 commence a program of methane hydrate research  
 18 and development in accordance with this section.

19 (2) DESIGNATIONS.—The Secretary, the Sec-  
 20 retary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the  
 21 Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall des-  
 22 ignate individuals to carry out this section.

23 (3) COORDINATION.—The individual designated  
 24 by the Secretary shall coordinate all activities within

1 the Department of Energy relating to methane hy-  
2 drate research and development.

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

8 (A) review the progress of the program  
9 under paragraph (1); and

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

12 (b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
13 MENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS,  
14 AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.—

15 (1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In car-  
16 rying out the program of methane hydrate research  
17 and development authorized by this section, the Sec-  
18 retary may award grants or contracts to, or enter  
19 into cooperative agreements with, institutions of  
20 higher education and industrial enterprises to—

21 (A) conduct basic and applied research to  
22 identify, explore, assess, and develop methane  
23 hydrate as a source of energy;

1           (B) assist in developing technologies re-  
2           quired for efficient and environmentally sound  
3           development of methane hydrate resources;

4           (C) undertake research programs to pro-  
5           vide safe means of transport and storage of  
6           methane produced from methane hydrates;

7           (D) promote education and training in  
8           methane hydrate resource research and re-  
9           source development;

10          (E) conduct basic and applied research to  
11          assess and mitigate the environmental impacts  
12          of hydrate degassing (including both natural  
13          degassing and degassing associated with com-  
14          mercial development);

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

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

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

23          (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish  
24          an advisory panel consisting of experts from industrial en-

1 terprises, institutions of higher education, and Federal  
2 agencies to—

3 (1) advise the Secretary on potential applica-  
4 tions of methane hydrate;

5 (2) assist in developing recommendations and  
6 priorities for the methane hydrate research and de-  
7 velopment program carried out under subsection  
8 (a)(1); and

9 (3) not later than 2 years after the date of the  
10 enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the  
11 panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a re-  
12 port on the anticipated impact on global climate  
13 change from—

14 (A) methane hydrate formation;

15 (B) methane hydrate degassing (including  
16 natural degassing and degassing associated with  
17 commercial development); and

18 (C) the consumption of natural gas pro-  
19 duced from methane hydrates.

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

22 (d) LIMITATIONS.—

23 (1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more  
24 than 5 percent of the amount made available to  
25 carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used

1 by the Secretary for expenses associated with the ad-  
2 ministration of the program carried out under sub-  
3 section (a)(1).

4 (2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds  
5 made available to carry out this section may be used  
6 for the construction of a new building or the acquisi-  
7 tion, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an exist-  
8 ing building (including site grading and improve-  
9 ment and architect fees).

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

12 (1) facilitate and develop partnerships among  
13 government, industrial enterprises, and institutions  
14 of higher education to research, identify, assess, and  
15 explore methane hydrate resources;

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

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

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

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

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

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

7           (1) in paragraph (6)—

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

10                (B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as  
11                subparagraph (H); and

12                (C) by inserting after subparagraph (F)  
13                the following:

14                   “(G) for purposes of this section and sec-  
15                   tions 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate;  
16                   and”;

17                (2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
18                graph (8); and

19                (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
20                lowing:

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

22                         “(A) a methane clathrate that is in the  
23                         form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline ma-  
24                         terial and is stable and occurs naturally in  
25                         deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and



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

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

7           (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

8           (2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2002;

9           (3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

10          (4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

11          (5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

12          Amounts authorized under this section shall remain avail-  
13          able until expended.

14 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

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

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

18          The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the  
19          National Research Council for such council to conduct a  
20          study of the progress made under the methane hydrate  
21          research and development program implemented pursuant  
22          to this Act, and to make recommendations for future  
23          methane hydrate research and development needs. The  
24          Secretary shall transmit to the Congress, not later than  
25          September 30, 2004, a report containing the findings and

1 recommendations of the National Research Council under  
2 this section.

3 **SEC. 8. REPORTS AND STUDIES.**

4       The Secretary of Energy shall provide to the Com-  
5 mittee on Science of the House of Representatives copies  
6 of any report or study that the Department of Energy pre-  
7 pares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.

Attest:

*Clerk.*