

# Union Calendar No. 572

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3225

**[Report No. 116–689, Part I]**

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Additional sponsors: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SOTO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. PORTER

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 12, 2019]

# **A BILL**

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, 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 “Restoring Community*  
5 *Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act*  
6 *of 2020”.*

7 **SEC. 2. LEASING PROCESS.**

8        *(a) ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.—Section 17(a)*  
9 *of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) is amended*  
10 *to read as follows:*

11        *“(a) LEASING AUTHORITY.—*

12                *“(1) IN GENERAL.—All lands subject to disposi-*  
13 *tion under this Act that are known or believed to con-*  
14 *tain oil or gas deposits may be leased by the Sec-*  
15 *retary.*

16                *“(2) RECEIPT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Leas-*  
17 *ing activities under this Act shall be conducted to as-*  
18 *sure receipt of fair market value for the lands and re-*  
19 *sources leased and the rights conveyed by the United*  
20 *States.”.*

21        *(b) COMPETITIVE BIDDING.—Section 17(b)(1)(A) of*  
22 *the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(A)) is*  
23 *amended to read as follows:*

24                *“(A) COMPETITIVE BIDDING.—*

1           “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—All lands to be  
2 leased under this section shall be leased as  
3 provided in this paragraph to the highest  
4 responsible qualified bidder by competitive  
5 bidding by sealed bid.

6           “(ii) *GEOGRAPHIC LIMITATION.*—The  
7 Secretary shall lease lands under this para-  
8 graph in units of not more than 2,560  
9 acres, except in Alaska, where units shall be  
10 not more than 5,760 acres. Such units shall  
11 be as nearly compact as possible.

12           “(iii) *FREQUENCY.*—Lease sales under  
13 this section shall be held for each State in  
14 which there are lands eligible for leasing no  
15 more than 3 times each year and on a ro-  
16 tating basis such that the lands under the  
17 responsibility of any Bureau of Land Man-  
18 agement field office are available for leasing  
19 no more than one time each year.

20           “(iv) *ROYALTY.*—A lease under this  
21 section shall be conditioned upon the pay-  
22 ment of a royalty at a rate of not less than  
23 18.5 percent in amount or value of the pro-  
24 duction removed or sold from the lease, ex-  
25 cept as otherwise provided in this Act.

1                   “(v) *ISSUANCE OF LEASE.*—*The Sec-*  
2                   *retary may issue a lease under this section*  
3                   *to the responsible qualified bidder with the*  
4                   *highest bid that is equal to or greater than*  
5                   *the national minimum acceptable bid. The*  
6                   *Secretary shall decide whether to accept a*  
7                   *bid and issue a lease within 90 days fol-*  
8                   *lowing payment by the successful bidder of*  
9                   *the remainder of the bonus bid, if any, and*  
10                   *annual rental for the first lease year.*

11                   “(vi) *REJECTION OF BID.*—*The Sec-*  
12                   *retary may reject a bid above the national*  
13                   *minimum acceptable bid if, after evaluation*  
14                   *of the value of the lands proposed for lease,*  
15                   *the Secretary determines that the bid*  
16                   *amount does not ensure that fair market*  
17                   *value is obtained for the lease.”.*

18                   (c) *NATIONAL MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE BID.*—*Subpara-*  
19                   *graph (B) of section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act*  
20                   *(30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)), is amended to read as follows:*

21                   “(B) *NATIONAL MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE*  
22                   *BID.*—

23                   “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The national min-*  
24                   *imum acceptable bid shall be \$5 per acre.*  
25                   *All bids under this section for less than the*

1           *national minimum acceptable bid shall be*  
2           *rejected.*

3           “(ii) *RAISING THE NATIONAL MINIMUM*  
4           *ACCEPTABLE BID.—The Secretary may es-*  
5           *tablish a higher national minimum accept-*  
6           *able bid—*

7                     “(I) *beginning at the end of the*  
8                     *four year period that begins on the*  
9                     *date of enactment of the Restoring*  
10                    *Community Input and Public Protec-*  
11                    *tion in Oil and Gas Leasing Act of*  
12                    *2020, at least once every 4 years, to re-*  
13                    *fect the change in the Consumer Price*  
14                    *Index for All Urban Consumers pub-*  
15                    *lished by the Bureau of Labor Statis-*  
16                    *tics; and*

17                    “(II) *at any time if the Secretary*  
18                    *finds that such a higher amount is nec-*  
19                    *essary to enhance financial returns to*  
20                    *the United States or to promote more*  
21                    *efficient management of oil and gas re-*  
22                    *sources on Federal lands.*

23           “(iii) *NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL AC-*  
24           *TION.—The proposal or issuance of any reg-*  
25           *ulation to establish a higher national min-*

1            *imum acceptable bid under clause (ii) shall*  
2            *not be considered a major Federal action*  
3            *that is subject to the requirements of section*  
4            *102(2)(C) of the National Environmental*  
5            *Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*  
6            *4332(2)(C)).”.*

7            *(d) RENTALS.—Section 17(d) of the Mineral Leasing*  
8 *Act (30 U.S.C. 226(d)) is amended to read as follows:*

9            *“(d) ANNUAL RENTALS.—All leases issued under this*  
10 *section shall be conditioned upon the payment by the lessee*  
11 *of a rental of—*

12            *“(1) not less than \$3.00 per acre per year during*  
13 *the 2-year period beginning on the date the lease be-*  
14 *gins for new leases, and after the end of such two year*  
15 *period not less than \$5 per acre per year; or*

16            *“(2) such higher rental rate as the Secretary*  
17 *may establish if the Secretary finds that such action*  
18 *is necessary to enhance financial returns to the*  
19 *United States and promote more efficient manage-*  
20 *ment of oil and gas and alternative energy resources*  
21 *on Federal lands.”.*

22            *(e) ELIMINATION OF NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING.—The*  
23 *Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended—*

24            *(1) in section 17(b) (30 U.S.C. 226(b)), by strik-*  
25 *ing paragraph (3);*

1           (2) by amending section 17(c) (30 U.S.C. 226(c))  
2           to read as follows:

3           “(c) Lands made available for leasing under subsection  
4 (b)(1) but for which no bid is accepted may be made avail-  
5 able by the Secretary for a new round of sealed bidding  
6 under such subsection.”;

7           (3) in section 17(e) (30 U.S.C. 226(e))—

8           (A) by striking “Competitive and non-  
9 competitive leases” and inserting “Leases, in-  
10 cluding leases for tar sand areas,”; and

11           (B) by striking “Provided, however” and all  
12 that follows through “ten years.”;

13           (4) in section 31(d)(1) (30 U.S.C. 188(d)(1)) by  
14 striking “or section 17(c)”;

15           (5) in section 31(e) (30 U.S.C. 188(e))—

16           (A) in paragraph (2) by striking “, or the  
17 inclusion” and all that follows and inserting a  
18 semicolon; and

19           (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “(A)” and  
20 by striking subparagraph (B);

21           (6) by striking section 31(f) (30 U.S.C. 188(f));

22           and

23           (7) in section 31(g) (30 U.S.C. 188(g))—

24           (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “as a  
25 competitive” and all that follows through the pe-



1           riod and inserting “in the same manner as the  
2           original lease issued pursuant to section 17.”;

3           (B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

4           (C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated, by striking “, applicable to leases issued under subsection 17(c) of this Act (30 U.S.C. 226(c)) except,” and inserting “, except”.

5           (f) *LEASE TERM.*—Section 17(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(e)) is amended by striking “10 years:” and inserting “5 years.”.

6           (g) *OTHER LEASING REQUIREMENTS.*—Section 17(g) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(g)), as amended by section 8 of this Act, is further amended—

7           (1) by striking “The Secretary” at the beginning and inserting “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary”;

8           and  
9           (2) by adding at the end the following:

10           “(2) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not issue a lease or approve the assignment of any lease to any person, or to any subsidiary or affiliate of such person or any other person controlled by or under common control with such person, unless such person has  
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1       *the demonstrated capability to explore and produce*  
2       *oil and gas under the lease.*

3               “(3) *PROTECTION OF LEASED LANDS FOR OTHER*  
4       *USES.—Each lease under this section shall include*  
5       *such terms as are necessary to preserve the United*  
6       *States flexibility to control or prohibit activities that*  
7       *pose serious and unacceptable impacts to the value of*  
8       *the leased lands for uses other than production of oil*  
9       *and gas.”.*

10 **SEC. 3. TRANSPARENCY AND LANDOWNER PROTECTIONS.**

11       *(a) DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITIES FILING DISCLOSURES*  
12 *OF INTEREST AND BIDS.—Section 17(b) of the Mineral*  
13 *Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)), as amended by this Act,*  
14 *is further amended by adding at the end the following:*

15               “(3) *BIDDER IDENTITY.—The Secretary—*

16                       “(A) *shall require that each expression of*  
17       *interest to bid for a lease under this section and*  
18       *each bid for a lease under this section shall in-*  
19       *clude the name of the person for whom such ex-*  
20       *pression of interest or bid is submitted; and*

21                       “(B) *shall promptly publish each such*  
22       *name.”.*

23       *(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 17(f) of the*  
24 *Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(f)) is amended by*

1 *striking “At least” and all that follows through “agencies.”*  
2 *and inserting the following:*

3           “(1) *REQUIRED NOTICE.*—*At least 45 days before*  
4 *offering lands for lease under this section, and at least*  
5 *30 days before approving applications for permits to*  
6 *drill under the provisions of a lease, modifying the*  
7 *terms of any lease issued under this section, or grant-*  
8 *ing a waiver, exception, or modification of any stipu-*  
9 *lation of a lease issued under this section, the Sec-*  
10 *retary shall provide notice of the proposed action to—*

11                   “(A) *the general public by posting such no-*  
12 *tice in the appropriate local office and on the*  
13 *electronic website of the leasing and land man-*  
14 *agement agencies offering the lands for lease;*

15                   “(B) *all surface land owners in the area of*  
16 *the lands being offered for lease; and*

17                   “(C) *the holders of special recreation per-*  
18 *mits for commercial use, competitive events, and*  
19 *other organized activities on the lands being of-*  
20 *fered for lease.*

21           “(2) *REQUIRED INFORMATION.*—”.

22       (c) *SURFACE OWNER PROTECTION.*—

23           (1) *POST-LEASE SURFACE USE AGREEMENT.*—

24                   (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in*  
25 *paragraph (2), the Secretary may not authorize*

1           *any operator to conduct exploration and drilling*  
2           *operations on lands with respect to which title to*  
3           *oil and gas resources is held by the United States*  
4           *but title to the surface estate is not held by the*  
5           *United States, until the operator has filed with*  
6           *the Secretary a document, signed by the operator*  
7           *and the surface owner or owners, showing that*  
8           *the operator has secured a written surface use*  
9           *agreement between the operator and the surface*  
10          *owner or owners that meets the requirements of*  
11          *subparagraph (B).*

12                 *(B) CONTENTS.—The surface use agreement*  
13          *shall provide for—*

14                         *(i) the use of only such portion of the*  
15                         *surface estate as is reasonably necessary for*  
16                         *exploration and drilling operations based*  
17                         *on site-specific conditions;*

18                         *(ii) the accommodation of the surface*  
19                         *estate owner to the maximum extent prac-*  
20                         *ticable, including the location, use, timing,*  
21                         *and type of exploration and drilling oper-*  
22                         *ations, consistent with the operator's right*  
23                         *to develop the oil and gas estate;*

24                         *(iii) the reclamation of the site to a*  
25                         *condition capable of supporting the uses*

1           *which such lands were capable of sup-*  
2           *porting prior to exploration and drilling*  
3           *operations; and*

4                   *(iv) compensation for damages as a re-*  
5           *sult of exploration and drilling operations,*  
6           *including—*

7                           *(I) loss of income and increased*  
8                           *costs incurred;*

9                           *(II) damage to or destruction of*  
10                          *personal property, including crops, for-*  
11                          *age, and livestock; and*

12                          *(III) failure to reclaim the site in*  
13                          *accordance with clause (iii).*

14           *(C) PROCEDURE.—*

15                   *(i) NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONCLUDE*  
16           *AGREEMENT.—An operator shall notify the*  
17           *surface estate owner or owners of the opera-*  
18           *tor's desire to conclude an agreement under*  
19           *this section. If the surface estate owner and*  
20           *the operator do not reach an agreement*  
21           *within 90 days after the operator has pro-*  
22           *vided such notice, the operator may submit*  
23           *the matter to third-party arbitration for*  
24           *resolution within a period of 90 days. The*

1                   *cost of such arbitration shall be the respon-*  
2                   *sibility of the operator.*

3                   *(ii) LIST OF ARBITRATORS.—The Sec-*  
4                   *retary shall identify persons with experience*  
5                   *in conducting arbitrations and shall make*  
6                   *this information available to operators.*

7                   *(iii) REFERRAL.—Referral of a matter*  
8                   *for arbitration by an operator to an arbi-*  
9                   *trator identified by the Secretary pursuant*  
10                  *to clause (ii) shall be sufficient to constitute*  
11                  *compliance with clause (i).*

12                  *(D) ATTORNEYS FEES.—If action is taken*  
13                  *to enforce or interpret any of the terms and con-*  
14                  *ditions contained in a surface use agreement, the*  
15                  *prevailing party shall be reimbursed by the other*  
16                  *party for reasonable attorneys fees and actual*  
17                  *costs incurred, in addition to any other relief*  
18                  *which a court or arbitration panel may grant.*

19                  *(2) AUTHORIZED EXPLORATION AND DRILLING*  
20                  *OPERATIONS.—*

21                  *(A) AUTHORIZATION WITHOUT SURFACE*  
22                  *USE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may authorize*  
23                  *an operator to conduct exploration and drilling*  
24                  *operations on lands covered by paragraph (1) in*

1           *the absence of an agreement with the surface es-*  
2           *tate owner or owners, if—*

3                   *(i) the Secretary makes a determina-*  
4                   *tion in writing that the operator made a*  
5                   *good faith attempt to conclude such an*  
6                   *agreement, including referral of the matter*  
7                   *to arbitration pursuant to paragraph*  
8                   *(1)(C), but that no agreement was con-*  
9                   *cluded within 90 days after the referral to*  
10                  *arbitration;*

11                  *(ii) the operator submits a plan of op-*  
12                  *erations that provides for the matters speci-*  
13                  *fied in paragraph (1)(B) and for compli-*  
14                  *ance with all other applicable requirements*  
15                  *of Federal and State law; and*

16                  *(iii) the operator posts a bond or other*  
17                  *financial assurance in an amount the Sec-*  
18                  *retary determines to be adequate to ensure*  
19                  *compensation to the surface estate owner for*  
20                  *any damages to the site, in the form of a*  
21                  *surety bond, trust fund, letter of credit, gov-*  
22                  *ernment security, certificate of deposit, cash,*  
23                  *or equivalent.*

1           (B) *SURFACE OWNER PARTICIPATION.*—*The*  
2           *Secretary shall provide surface estate owners*  
3           *with an opportunity to—*

4                   (i) *comment on plans of operations in*  
5                   *advance of a determination of compliance*  
6                   *with this Act;*

7                   (ii) *participate in bond level deter-*  
8                   *minations and bond release proceedings*  
9                   *under this section;*

10                  (iii) *attend an on-site inspection dur-*  
11                  *ing such determinations and proceedings;*

12                  (iv) *file written objections to a pro-*  
13                  *posed bond release; and*

14                  (v) *request and participate in an on-*  
15                  *site inspection when they have reason to be-*  
16                  *lieve there is a violation of the terms and*  
17                  *conditions of a plan of operations.*

18           (C) *PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.*—  
19           *A surface estate owner with respect to any land*  
20           *subject to a lease may petition the Secretary for*  
21           *payment of all or any portion of a bond or other*  
22           *financial assurance required under this section*  
23           *as compensation for any damages as a result of*  
24           *exploration and drilling operations. Pursuant to*  
25           *such a petition, the Secretary may use such bond*



1           or other guarantee to provide compensation to  
2           the surface estate owner for such damages.

3           (D) *BOND RELEASE.*—Upon request and  
4           after inspection and opportunity for surface es-  
5           tate owner review, the Secretary may release the  
6           financial assurance required under this section if  
7           the Secretary determines that exploration and  
8           drilling operations are ended and all damages  
9           have been fully compensated.

10          (3) *SURFACE OWNER NOTIFICATION.*—The Sec-  
11         retary shall notify surface estate owners in writing—

12                 (A) not less than 45 days before lease sales;

13                 (B) of the identity of the lessee, not more  
14                 than 10 business days after a lease is issued;

15                 (C) concerning any subsequent request or  
16                 decision regarding a lease not more than 5 busi-  
17                 ness days after such request or decision, includ-  
18                 ing regarding modification of a lease, waiver of  
19                 a stipulation, or approval of a right of way; and

20                 (D) not more than 5 business days after  
21                 issuance of a drilling permit under a lease.

22 **SEC. 4. LEASE STIPULATIONS.**

23         (a) *ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.*—Section  
24         363(b)(3)(C) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.  
25         15922(b)(3)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

1                   “(C) *adequately protective of the resource*  
2                   *for which the stipulations are applied;*”.

3           (b) *REVISION OF EXISTING MEMORANDUM.—Not later*  
4 *than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act*  
5 *the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agri-*  
6 *culture shall revise the memorandum of understanding*  
7 *under section 363(b)(3)(C) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005*  
8 *(42 U.S.C. 15922) in accordance with the amendment made*  
9 *by subsection (a).*

10 **SEC. 5. MASTER LEASING PLANS.**

11           *Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
12 *226(a)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by*  
13 *adding at the end the following:*

14                   “(3) *MASTER LEASING PLANS.—*

15                   “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may*  
16 *adopt and implement a master leasing plan to*  
17 *govern the issuance of oil and gas leases under*  
18 *this Act for any Federal lands, in accordance*  
19 *with Bureau of Land Management Instruction*  
20 *Memorandum No. 2010–117, dated May 17,*  
21 *2010, as in effect on April 24, 2017.*

22                   “(B) *FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—In*  
23 *deciding whether to adopt and implement a mas-*  
24 *ter leasing plan, the Secretary—*

1           “(i) shall consider the criteria set forth  
2           in Bureau of Land Management Instruction  
3           Memorandum No. 2010–117, dated May 17,  
4           2010, as in effect on April 24, 2017; and

5           “(ii) shall consider the benefits of  
6           avoiding conflicts between mineral leasing  
7           and other land uses, including conservation,  
8           recreation, and protection of cultural and  
9           historic resources.

10          “(C) STATE REQUEST.—The Secretary shall  
11          adopt and implement a master leasing plan  
12          under subparagraph (A) applicable to leases for  
13          Federal lands in a State or county of a State,  
14          if requested by the government of such State or  
15          county, respectively.

16          “(D) REQUEST BY AN INDIVIDUAL.—

17          “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any individual  
18          who is a resident of a State or county of a  
19          State may submit a petition to the Sec-  
20          retary requesting that the Secretary adopt  
21          and implement a master leasing plan under  
22          subparagraph (A) applicable to the issuance  
23          of leases for Federal lands in such State or  
24          county, respectively.

1                   “(ii) *CONSIDERATION.*—*If the Sec-*  
2                   *retary receives such a petition, the Sec-*  
3                   *retary shall, not later than 60 days after re-*  
4                   *ceiving such petition, issue a determination*  
5                   *of whether or not the adoption and imple-*  
6                   *mentation of such a master leasing plan is*  
7                   *appropriate.”.*

8 **SEC. 6. PARCEL REVIEW.**

9           *Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
10 *226(a)), as amended by sections 2 and 5 of this Act, is fur-*  
11 *ther amended by adding at the end the following:*

12                   “(4) *PARCEL REVIEW.*—*The Secretary shall issue*  
13                   *oil and gas leases under this Act only in accordance*  
14                   *with subsections C through I of section III of Bureau*  
15                   *of Land Management Instruction Memorandum No.*  
16                   *2010–117, dated May 17, 2010, as in effect on April*  
17                   *24, 2017.”.*

18 **SEC. 7. ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.**

19           *Section 27(d)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
20 *184(d)(1)) is amended by striking “, and acreage under any*  
21 *lease any portion of which has been committed to a federally*  
22 *approved unit or cooperative plan or communitization*  
23 *agreement or for which royalty (including compensatory*  
24 *royalty or royalty in-kind) was paid in the preceding cal-*  
25 *endar year,”.*

1 **SEC. 8. LAND MANAGEMENT.**

2 *Section 17(g) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
3 *226(g)), as amended by section 2(g) of this Act, is further*  
4 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

5 *“(4) MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT.—The Sec-*  
6 *retary, and for National Forest lands, the Secretary*  
7 *of Agriculture, shall manage lands that are subject to*  
8 *an oil and gas lease under this Act in accordance*  
9 *with the principles, policies, and requirements relat-*  
10 *ing to multiple use under the Federal Land Policy*  
11 *and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et*  
12 *seq.), until the beginning of operations on such*  
13 *lease.”.*

14 **SEC. 9. OIL SHALE.**

15 *Section 21(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
16 *241(a)) is amended—*

17 *(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary*  
18 *of the Interior” and inserting “Subject to paragraph*  
19 *(6), the Secretary of the Interior”;* and

20 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

21 *“(6) Beginning on the date of enactment of the*  
22 *Restoring Community Input and Public Protections*  
23 *in Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 2020, The Secretary*  
24 *may not issue any lease for oil shale under this Act*  
25 *before the date the Secretary issues a finding that the*  
26 *technical and economic feasibility of development of*

1        *and production from such deposit has been dem-*  
 2        *onstrated under section 369 of the Energy Policy Act*  
 3        *of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15927).”.*

4        **SEC. 10. TRANSPARENCY IN MANAGEMENT OF LEASES.**

5        *Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
 6        *226(a)), as amended by sections 2, 5, and 6 of this Act,*  
 7        *is further amended by adding at the end the following:*

8                *“(5) TRANSPARENCY IN MANAGEMENT OF*  
 9        *LEASES.—For each lease under this section, the Sec-*  
 10        *retary shall make available on a public website—*

11                *“(A) the identity of—*

12                        *“(i) each person who is or has been a*  
 13                        *lessee under the lease; and*

14                        *“(ii) each person who is or has been an*  
 15                        *operator under the lease;*

16                *“(B) notice of each transfer of the lease; and*

17                        *“(C) notice of each suspension of operations,*  
 18                        *each suspension of production, and each suspen-*  
 19                        *sion of operations and production.”.*

20        **SEC. 11. LEASE CANCELLATION FOR IMPROPER ISSUANCE.**

21        *Section 31(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.*  
 22        *188(b)) is amended by inserting “if the lease was impropr-*  
 23        *erly issued or” after “30 days notice”.*

1 **SEC. 12. FEES FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.**

2       *The Secretary of the Interior shall charge any person*  
3 *who submits an expression of interest, as that term is de-*  
4 *finied by the Secretary, a fee, in an amount determined by*  
5 *the Secretary to be appropriate in aggregate to cover the*  
6 *aggregate cost of processing expressions of interest.*

Union Calendar No. 572

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 3225**

[Report No. 116-689, Part I]

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## **A BILL**

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, and for other purposes.

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DECEMBER 24, 2020

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with  
an amendment

DECEMBER 24, 2020

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the  
Committee of the Whole House on the State of the  
Union and ordered to be printed