

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2556

To enhance national security and energy independence through comprehensive offshore energy resource assessment and mapping, to establish a framework for the regular review and standardization of offshore resource exploration methodologies, and for related purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2025

Mr. HUNT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, 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

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## A BILL

To enhance national security and energy independence through comprehensive offshore energy resource assessment and mapping, to establish a framework for the regular review and standardization of offshore resource exploration methodologies, and for related 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 “Comprehensive Off-  
5 shore Resource Enhancement Act of 2025” or the “CORE  
6 Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE ENERGY RESOURCES**  
2 **AND RESERVES.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) EXPLORATION; DEVELOPMENT, PRODUC-  
5 TION.—The terms “exploration”, “development”,  
6 and “production” have the meanings given such  
7 terms in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf  
8 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331).

9 (2) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
10 means the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the  
11 Interior, and the Secretary of State.

12 (b) REPORT ON TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBON  
13 RESERVOIRS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secre-  
16 taries shall jointly submit to the Committee on En-  
17 ergy and Natural Resources and the Committee on  
18 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee  
19 on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Nat-  
20 ural Resources, and the Committee on Foreign Af-  
21 fairs of the House of Representatives a report that  
22 includes the following:

23 (A) An identification and assessment of  
24 any existing transboundary hydrocarbon res-  
25 ervoirs, including those covered by bilateral  
26 maritime boundary treaties and agreements,

1 and any potential transboundary areas for fu-  
2 ture exploration, development, and production  
3 of hydrocarbons.

4 (B) An analysis of the legal frameworks  
5 established by relevant maritime boundary trea-  
6 ties and agreements, including provisions re-  
7 lated to the equitable exploration, development,  
8 and production of transboundary hydrocarbon  
9 reservoirs and mechanisms for resolving dis-  
10 putes, and their adoption by counterparty na-  
11 tions.

12 (C) An evaluation of the potential eco-  
13 nomic, environmental, and geopolitical implica-  
14 tions of transboundary hydrocarbon exploration,  
15 development, and production, including impacts  
16 on domestic energy security, greenhouse gas  
17 emissions, and international relations.

18 (D) Recommendations for enhancing co-  
19 operation and coordination among the United  
20 States and neighboring countries in the explo-  
21 ration, development, and production of trans-  
22 boundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, including  
23 mechanisms for information sharing, joint ex-  
24 ploration, development, and production, and  
25 dispute resolution.

1           (E) Data and insights derived from recent  
2 collaborative efforts between the United States  
3 and Canada, such as seismic data collection,  
4 and an analysis of how such efforts can inform  
5 the delineation of maritime boundaries.

6           (F) An examination of unresolved mari-  
7 time boundaries between the United States and  
8 Canada, particularly those involving potential  
9 transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, and an  
10 identification of potential legal and diplomatic  
11 avenues to resolve disputes over such bound-  
12 aries, including the possibility of involving inter-  
13 national judicial bodies such as the Inter-  
14 national Court of Justice or a chamber con-  
15 stituted by such Court pursuant to a special  
16 agreement between the parties.

17           (G) A review of existing data on the poten-  
18 tial for shared exploration, development, and  
19 production of transboundary hydrocarbon res-  
20 ervoirs in disputed maritime zones between the  
21 United States and Canada, with recommenda-  
22 tions for further studies or negotiations to ad-  
23 dress uncertainties and maximize joint explo-  
24 ration, development, and production opportuni-  
25 ties.

(H) A comprehensive review of activities by neighboring countries, including Cuba, Mexico, Canada, the Bahamas, and Russia, regarding the exploration, development, seismic surveying, drilling, production, or any other activity related to transboundary hydrocarbon reservoirs, which such review shall include the status of any bilateral or multilateral agreements, an assessment of foreign exploration, development, and production efforts within transboundary zones adjacent to United States maritime boundaries, and an analysis of the potential implications of these activities for United States energy security, environmental impacts, and geopolitical considerations.

(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the report required to be submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) prioritize the acquisition and use of advanced geophysical, geological, and geotechnical data and methods;

(B) acquire and apply new and emerging modeling and analytic technologies, including data analysis tools, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, modeling, and geographic in-

1 formation systems, to approximate the quantity  
2 and establish a peer-reviewed range of resources  
3 in each regional planning area with a discussion  
4 of the upper and lower bound of the estimates  
5 with that discussion to include recommenda-  
6 tions as to how to reduce the range of uncer-  
7 tainty; and

8 (C) in partnership with other relevant Fed-  
9 eral agencies, including the National Science  
10 Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmos-  
11 pheric Administration, and the Office of Naval  
12 Research, utilize any existing maritime vessels  
13 or deployed capability, including any geo-  
14 physical, geological, or related mapping tech-  
15 nologies.

16 (c) STANDARDIZATION OF EXISTING REPORTS.—

17 Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.  
18 15912) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by inserting “, in consultation with  
21 other relevant Federal agencies and not less  
22 frequently than once every 5 years,” after “Sec-  
23 retary shall”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “of Mex-  
25 ico and Canada”;

1           (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
2       section (d);

3           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
4       lowing:

5       “(b) INCLUSIONS.—An inventory and analysis con-  
6       ducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

7           “(1) An assessment of the approximate quan-  
8       tity of undiscovered resources in the Atlantic region,  
9       the Pacific region off the coasts of California, Or-  
10      egon, Washington, and Hawaii, the Alaska region,  
11      the Gulf of America region, and offshore of terri-  
12      tories of the United States, which shall include the  
13      following:

14           “(A) A detailed analysis of how the future  
15      production of these undiscovered resources  
16      could influence the United States capacity to  
17      competitively produce, market, and export hy-  
18      drocarbons on a global scale. Such detailed  
19      analysis shall consider key market variables  
20      such as global supply and demand dynamics,  
21      projected price points, geopolitical factors, and  
22      the role of United States production in main-  
23      taining global energy security.

24           “(B) An economic analysis of how the de-  
25      velopment and production of these undiscovered

1 resources would affect domestic employment  
2 across the supply chain. Such economic analysis  
3 shall include direct, indirect, and induced job  
4 impacts, emphasizing the potential for job cre-  
5 ation in exploration, production, refining, logis-  
6 tics, and associated industries.

7 “(2) An identification and assessment of how  
8 the unavailability for leasing of any lands that are  
9 withdrawn under section 12 of the Outer Conti-  
10 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341) or part of  
11 the National Marine Sanctuary System established  
12 by section 301(c) of the National Marine Sanc-  
13 tuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431(c)) affects—

14 “(A) the exploration, development, and  
15 production of oil and gas;

16 “(B) national security, including the Na-  
17 tion’s ability to supply the Armed Forces, its al-  
18 lies, and trade partners with products derived  
19 from offshore oil or gas;

20 “(C) domestic jobs and employment; and

21 “(D) the amount of revenue States and  
22 coastal political subdivisions receive pursuant  
23 to—



1 “(i) section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico  
2 Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C.  
3 1331 note);

4 “(ii) the Land and Water Conserva-  
5 tion Fund (established under section  
6 200301 of title 54, United States Code);  
7 and

8 “(iii) division A of subtitle III of title  
9 54 (commonly referred to as the ‘National  
10 Historic Preservation Act’).

11 “(3) An assessment, including identification of  
12 locations, of non-energy mineral resources for com-  
13 mercial or national security operations, including  
14 stone, sand, and gravel, and offshore critical min-  
15 erals.

16 “(c) UPDATING MODELS.—

17 “(1) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall, in  
18 consultation with the National Petroleum Council,  
19 the Society of Petroleum Engineers, and the United  
20 States Association for Energy Economics, periodi-  
21 cally conduct an assessment of the costs, benefits,  
22 and accuracy of the models utilized by the Depart-  
23 ment of the Interior to conduct an inventory and  
24 analysis under subsection (a). The first assessment  
25 under this paragraph shall be conducted not later

1       than 1 year after the date of enactment of the  
2       CORE Act of 2025, and subsequent assessments not  
3       less frequently than once every 10 years thereafter.

4           “(2) UPDATES AND REPORTS.—

5               “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
6       after the date on which the Secretary conducts  
7       an assessment under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
8       retary of the Interior shall, based on such as-  
9       sessment—

10               “(i) update the models described in  
11       such paragraph and publish a report on  
12       such update; or

13               “(ii) publish a report on why an up-  
14       date to such models is not necessary.

15           “(B) INCLUSIONS.—Each report published  
16       under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-  
17       lowing:

18               “(i) A clear, detailed explanation of  
19       any updates made to the models described  
20       in paragraph (1) or why updates were not  
21       necessary.

22               “(ii) An evaluation describing how any  
23       updates made under subparagraph (A) im-  
24       prove the accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and

reliability of the inventories and analyses  
conducted under subsection (a).

“(iii) If any updates recommend by  
the National Petroleum Council, the Soci-  
ety of Petroleum Engineers, or the United  
States Association for Energy Economics  
are not incorporated, a detailed expla-  
nation of why such updates were not incor-  
porated.”; and

(4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary shall sub-  
mit” and inserting “Not later than 1 year after  
the date of enactment of the CORE Act of  
2025, the Secretary shall submit”; and

(B) by striking “, within 6 months of the  
date of enactment of the section”.

**SEC. 3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION PRAC-  
TICES FROM OFFSHORE PRODUCING COUN-  
TRY.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 10  
years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, in consulta-  
tion with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of En-  
ergy, shall publish on the website of the Department of  
the Interior and submit to the Committee on Natural Re-

1 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
2 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate  
3 a comparative analysis of the offshore oil and gas explo-  
4 ration, development, and production practices for each  
5 major offshore producing country. To the fullest extent  
6 practicable, such comparative analysis shall include the  
7 following:

8 (1) Data on—

9 (A) the number of offshore acres offered  
10 for lease;

11 (B) the frequency of lease auctions, sales,  
12 and lease issuances; and

13 (C) lease structures, fiscal terms, and the  
14 competitive positioning of each major offshore  
15 producing country relative to United States  
16 leasing practices.

17 (2) Detailed reporting on the volume of oil and  
18 gas produced (measured in barrels on an annual  
19 basis and cubic feet, respectively), including histor-  
20 ical trends, production forecasts, and the influence  
21 of technological advancements on production effi-  
22 ciency and recovery rates.

23 (3) An accounting of regional market demands,  
24 export capabilities, and contributions to energy di-  
25 versification strategies.

1           (4) An assessment, which shall be made in col-  
2           laboration with the United States Geological Survey,  
3           of the volume of both undiscovered and discovered  
4           offshore oil and gas resources, including probabilistic  
5           estimates of resource volumes that consider geologi-  
6           cal, technological, and market factors impacting ex-  
7           ploration, development, and production.

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