

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4239

To require the Secretary of the Interior to annually submit to Congress, and make publicly available on a website, a report on decommissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms, and pipelines, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to annually submit to Congress, and make publicly available on a website, a report on decommissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms, and pipelines, 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 “Plug Offshore Wells
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON DECOMMISSIONING OFF-**
2 **SHORE OIL AND GAS WELLS, PLATFORMS,**
3 **AND PIPELINES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

5 (1) DECOMMISSIONING.—The term “decommis-
6 sioning” has the meaning given the term in section
7 250.1700 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations
8 (or a successor regulation).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
13 the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly
14 available on the website of the Department of the Interior
15 a report that describes, with respect to the preceding cal-
16 endar year—

17 (1) the number of applications for decommis-
18 sioning an offshore oil and gas well, platform, or
19 pipeline that were required to be submitted pursuant
20 to subpart Q of part 250 of title 30, Code of Federal
21 Regulations (or successor regulations);

22 (2) the number of applications described in
23 paragraph (1) that were received by the Secretary;

24 (3) the number of offshore oil and gas wells,
25 platforms, and pipelines for which decommissioning
26 did not occur by the date required pursuant to sub-

1 part Q of part 250 of title 30, Code of Federal Reg-
2 ulations (or successor regulations);

3 (4) the number of offshore oil and gas wells and
4 platforms approved for decommissioning in place
5 pursuant to section 250.1750 of title 30, Code of
6 Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

7 (5) the length of any offshore oil and gas pipe-
8 lines that—

9 (A) were decommissioned in place pursu-
10 ant to section 250.1750 of title 30, Code of
11 Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);
12 and

13 (B) were removed pursuant to—

14 (i) section 250.1752 of title 30, Code
15 of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-
16 ulation); and

17 (ii) section 250.1754 of title 30, Code
18 of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-
19 ulation); and

20 (6) the status of enforcement actions, including
21 notices of incident of noncompliance, orders, cita-
22 tions, civil penalties, and disqualifications from fu-
23 ture offshore operations, by the Bureau of Safety
24 and Environmental Enforcement with respect to de-

- 1 commissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms,
- 2 and pipelines.

