

Public Law 185

CHAPTER 420

JOINT RESOLUTION

Consenting to an interstate compact to conserve oil and gas.

July 28, 1955
[S. J. Res. 38]

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of Congress is hereby given to an extension and renewal for a period of four years from September 1, 1955, of the interstate compact to conserve oil and gas, which was signed in the city of Dallas, Texas, the 16th day of February 1935 by the representatives of Oklahoma, Texas, California, and New Mexico, and at the same time and place was signed by the representatives, as a recommendation for approval to the Governors and Legislatures of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, and Michigan, and prior to August 27, 1935, said compact was presented to and approved by the Legislatures and Governors of the States of New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado, and Texas, which said compact so approved by the six States last above named was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and thereafter such compact was, by the President, presented to the Congress, and the Congress gave consent to such compact by H. J. Res. 407, approved August 27, 1935 (Public Resolution Numbered 64, Seventy-fourth Congress), and which said compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of two years from September 1, 1937, by an agreement executed as of the 10th day of May 1937 by the representatives of the States of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Illinois, and Colorado, and was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and thereafter such extended and renewed compact was, by the President, presented to the Congress and the Congress gave consent to such extended and renewed compact by S. J. Res. 183, approved August 10, 1937 (Public Resolution Numbered 57, Seventy-fifth Congress), and which said compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of two years from September 1, 1939, by an agreement duly executed and ratified by the States of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, and Michigan, and was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and thereafter such extended and renewed compact was, by the President, presented to the Congress and the Congress gave consent to such extended and renewed compact by H. J. Res. 329, approved July 20, 1939 (Public Resolution Numbered 31, Seventy-sixth Congress), and which said compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of two years from September 1, 1941, by an agreement duly executed and ratified by the States of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Illinois, Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania, and was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and thereafter such extended and renewed compact was, by the President, presented to Congress and the Congress gave consent to such extended and renewed compact by H. J. Res. 228, approved August 21, 1941 (Public Law 246, Seventy-seventh Congress), and which compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of four years from September 1, 1943, by an agreement executed and ratified by representatives of the States of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Kentucky, and was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and thereafter such extended and renewed compact was, by the President of the United States, presented to Congress and the Congress gave consent to such extended and renewed compact by H. J. Res. 139, approved July 7, 1943 (Public Law 117, Seventy-eighth Congress) and thereafter the representatives of the States of Montana, West Virginia, Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Tennessee, and Indiana

Oil and gas conservation.
Consent of Congress to extension of compact.

49 Stat. 939.

50 Stat. 617.

53 Stat. 1071.

55 Stat. 666.

57 Stat. 383.

61 Stat. 316.

65 Stat. 199.

executed counterparts of said agreement, and said counterparts so executed were deposited in the Department of State of the United States; and which compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of four years from the 1st day of September 1947 by an agreement executed and ratified by the representatives of the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Indiana, which was deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and such extended and renewed compact was, by the President of the United States, presented to Congress, and Congress gave its consent to such extended and renewed compact by S. J. Res. 122 (Public Law 184, Eightieth Congress); and thereafter the representatives of the States of Kentucky, Illinois, Mississippi, and Michigan executed counterparts of said agreement, which executed counterparts were deposited in the Department of State of the United States; and which compact was thereafter extended and renewed for a period of four years from the 1st day of September 1951, by an agreement executed and ratified by the representatives of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia, which was deposited in the Department of State of the United States and such extended and renewed compact was, by the President of the United States, presented to Congress and Congress gave its consent to such extended and renewed compact by S. J. Res. 42 (Eighty-second Congress, first session); and thereafter the representatives of the states of Illinois, Kansas, North Dakota, and Nebraska executed counterparts of said agreement which executed counterparts were deposited in the Department of State of the United States.

The agreement to extend and renew said compact for a period of four years from September 1, 1955, to September 1, 1959, duly executed by the representatives of the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia, has been deposited in the Department of State of the United States, and reads as follows:

AN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THE INTERSTATE COMPACT TO CONSERVE OIL AND GAS

Text of compact.

Whereas, on the 16th day of February, 1935, in the City of Dallas, Texas, there was executed "An Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas" which was thereafter formally ratified and approved by the States of Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Colorado, and Kansas, the original of which is now on deposit with the Department of State of the United States, a true copy of which follows:

"AN INTERSTATE COMPACT TO CONSERVE OIL AND GAS

"ARTICLE I

"This agreement may become effective within any compacting state at any time as prescribed by that state, and shall become effective within those states ratifying it whenever any three of the states of Texas, Oklahoma, California, Kansas, and New Mexico have ratified and Congress has given its consent. Any oil-producing state may become a party hereto as hereinafter provided.

"ARTICLE II

"The purpose of this compact is to conserve oil and gas by the prevention of physical waste thereof from any cause.

"ARTICLE III

"Each state bound hereby agrees that within a reasonable time it will enact laws, or if laws have been enacted, then it agrees to continue the same in force, to accomplish within reasonable limits the prevention of:

"(a) The operation of any oil well with an inefficient gas-oil ratio.
"(b) The drowning with water of any stratum capable of producing oil or gas, or both oil and gas, in paying quantities.

"(c) The avoidable escape into the open air or the wasteful burning of gas from a natural gas well.

"(d) The creation of unnecessary fire hazards.

"(e) The drilling, equipping, locating, spacing or operating of a well or wells so as to bring about physical waste of oil or gas or loss in the ultimate recovery thereof.

"(f) The inefficient, excessive or improper use of the reservoir energy in producing any well.

"The enumeration of the foregoing subjects shall not limit the scope of the authority of any state.

"ARTICLE IV

"Each state bound hereby agrees that it will, within a reasonable time, enact statutes, or if such statutes have been enacted then that it will continue the same in force, providing in effect that oil produced in violation of its valid oil and/or gas conservation statutes or any valid rule, order or regulation promulgated thereunder, shall be denied access to commerce; and providing for stringent penalties for the waste of either oil or gas.

"ARTICLE V

"It is not the purpose of this compact to authorize the states joining herein to limit the production of oil or gas for the purpose of stabilizing or fixing the price thereof, or create or perpetuate monopoly, or to promote regimentation, but is limited to the purpose of conserving oil and gas and preventing the avoidable waste thereof within reasonable limitations.

"ARTICLE VI

"Each State joining herein shall appoint one representative to a commission hereby constituted and designated as the Interstate Oil Compact Commission, the duty of which said commission shall be to make inquiry and ascertain from time to time such methods, practices, circumstances and conditions as may be disclosed for bringing about conservation and the prevention of physical waste of oil and gas, and at such intervals as said commission deems beneficial it shall report its findings and recommendations to the several States for adoption or rejection.

"The Commission shall have power to recommend the coordination of the exercise of the police powers of the several states within their several jurisdictions to promote the maximum ultimate recovery from the petroleum reserves of said states, and to recommend measures for the maximum ultimate recovery of oil and gas. Said Commission shall organize and adopt suitable rules and regulations for the conduct of its business.

"No action shall be taken by the Commission except: (1) by the affirmative votes of the majority of the whole number of the compacting States represented at any meeting, and (2) by a concurring vote of a majority in interest of the compacting States at said meeting, such interest to be determined as follows: such vote of each State shall be in the decimal proportion fixed by the ratio of its daily average production during the preceding calendar half-year to the daily average production of the compacting States during said period.

"ARTICLE VII

"No State by joining herein shall become financially obligated to any other State, nor shall the breach of the terms hereof by any State subject such State to financial responsibility to the other States joining herein.

"ARTICLE VIII

"This compact shall expire September 1, 1937. But any State joining herein, may upon sixty (60) days notice, withdraw herefrom.

"The representatives of the signatory States have signed this agreement in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Department of State of the United States, and a duly certified copy shall be forwarded to the Governor of each of the signatory States.

"This compact shall become effective when ratified and approved as provided in Article I. Any oil-producing State may become a party hereto by affixing its signature to a counterpart to be similarly deposited, certified, and ratified."

Whereas, the said Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas has heretofore been duly renewed and extended with the consent of the Congress to September 1, 1955; and,

Whereas, it is desired to renew and extend the said Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas for a period of four (4) years from September 1, 1955, to September 1, 1959;

Now, Therefore, This Writing Witnesseth:

It is hereby agreed that the Compact entitled "An Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas" executed in the City of Dallas, Texas, on the 16th day of February, 1935, and now on deposit with the Department of State of the United States, a correct copy of which appears above, be, and the same hereby is, extended for a period of four (4) years from September 1, 1955, its present date of expiration. This agreement shall become effective when executed, ratified, and approved as provided in Article I of the original Compact.

The signatory states have executed this agreement in a single original which is deposited in the archives of the Department of State of the United States and a duly certified copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Governor of each of the signatory states. Any oil-producing state may become a party hereto by executing a counterpart of this agreement to be similarly deposited, certified, and ratified.

Executed by the several undersigned states, at their several state capitols, through their proper officials on the dates as shown, as duly authorized by statutes and resolutions, subject to the limitations and qualifications of the acts of the respective State Legislatures.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA

By GORDON PERSONS, Governor

Dated: 6-29-54

Attest: Mrs. Agnes Baggett

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
By FRANCIS CHERRY, Governor

Dated: 6-14-54
Attest: C. G. Hall
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF COLORADO
By DAN THORNTON, Governor

Dated: 5-3-54
Attest: Homer M. Bruce
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF FLORIDA
By CHARLEY E. JOHNS, Governor

Dated: 9-13-54
Attest: R. A. Gray
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
By _____, Governor

Dated: _____
Attest: _____
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF INDIANA
By GEORGE N. CRAIG, Governor

Dated: 5-21-54
Attest: Crawford F. Parker
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF KANSAS
By EDWARD F. ARN, Governor

Dated: 11-18-54
Attest: Paul R. Shanahan
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF KENTUCKY
By LAWRENCE W. WETHERBY, Governor

Dated: 10-19-54
Attest: Charles K. O'Connell
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
By ROBERT F. KENNON, Governor

Dated: 7-5-54
Attest: J. R. Nelson
Assistant Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
By G. MENNEN WILLIAMS, Governor

Dated: 12-14-54
Attest: Owen J. Cleary
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
By HUGH L. WHITE, Governor

Dated: 8-19-54
Attest: Heber Ladner
Secretary of State
(SEAL)

THE STATE OF MONTANA

By J. HUGO ARONSON, Governor

Dated: 5-26-54

Attest: Sam W. Mitchell

Secretary of State

By: Clifford L. Walker

Deputy

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

By ROBERT B. CROSBY, Governor

Dated: 6-22-54

Attest: Frank Marsh

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

By EDWIN L. MECHEM, Governor

Dated: 5-12-54

Attest: Beatrice B. Roach

Secretary of State

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

By THOMAS E. DEWEY, Governor

Dated: 10-7-54

Attest: Ruth M. Miner

Executive Deputy

(For Secretary of State)

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

By C. NORMAN BRUNSDALE, Governor

Dated: 8-16-54

Attest: Thomas Hall

Secretary of State

By: Frank Diettman

Deputy

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF OHIO

By FRANK J. LAUSCHE, Governor

Dated: 7-26-54

Attest: Ted W. Brown

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

By JOHNSTON MURRAY, Governor

Dated: 4-1-54

Attest: John D. Conner

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

By JOHN S. FINE, Governor

Dated: 8-27-54

Attest: Gene D. Smith

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

By FRANK G. CLEMENT, Governor

Dated: 8-10-54

Attest: G. Edward Friar

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF TEXAS
By ALLAN SHIVERS, Governor

Dated: 4-27-54

Attest: Howard Carney

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
By WILLIAM C. MARLAND, Governor

Dated: 11-1-54

Attest: D. Pitt O'Brien

Secretary of State

(SEAL)

SEC. 2. The Attorney General of the United States shall make an annual report to the Congress for the duration of the Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas as to whether or not the activities of the States under the provisions of such compact have been consistent with the purpose as set out in article V of such compact.

Approved July 28, 1955.

Report to Congress.

Public Law 186

CHAPTER 421

AN ACT

To authorize the transfer to the Department of Agriculture, for agricultural purposes, of certain real property in Saint Croix, Virgin Islands.

July 28, 1955
[S. 2097]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Virgin Islands Corporation is authorized and directed to transfer and convey to the United States of America upon request of the Secretary of Agriculture, without cost, the real property comprising sixty acres more or less, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, occupied and in use by the Department of Agriculture, which property is adjacent to the southwest corner of the intersection of Centerline Road and Airport Road on the Island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands: Provided, Upon the transfer and conveyance of such property by the Virgin Islands Corporation to the United States, the interest-bearing investment of the United States in the Corporation shall be reduced by the net book value of such property.

Saint Croix, V.I.
Property transfer
to U. S.

Approved July 28, 1955.

Public Law 187

CHAPTER 422

AN ACT

To authorize the leasing of certain lands of the Yakima Tribe to the State of Washington for historical and for park purposes.

July 28, 1955
[H. R. 1802]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, notwithstanding the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the leasing of Indian lands situated within the State of Washington for business and other purposes", approved August 9, 1946 (25 U. S. C., secs. 403b and 403c), or any other provision of law, the Yakima Tribe acting through its tribal council may lease to the State of Washington that land more particularly described in section 4 for the purpose of developing, maintaining, and preserving Fort Simcoe (Mool-Mool) for historical and for park purposes.

Ft. Simcoe, Wash.
Indian land lease.
60 Stat. 962.