

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1107

To transfer oil and gas royalty auditing and reconciling functions of the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Treasury, and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury, in performing functions relating to auditing and reconciling oil and gas production activities, to exercise all available authorities to ensure the United States Government receives all amounts of royalties to which it is entitled.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. KUCINICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To transfer oil and gas royalty auditing and reconciling functions of the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of the Treasury, and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury, in performing functions relating to auditing and reconciling oil and gas production activities, to exercise all available authorities to ensure the United States Government receives all amounts of royalties to which it is entitled.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the "Royalty Collection Re-
3 form Act of 1997".

4 SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF OIL AND GAS ROYALTY AUDITING
5 FUNCTIONS; ENSURING RECEIPT OF ROYAL-
6 TIES BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

7 (a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are trans-
8 ferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary
9 of the Treasury the functions of the Secretary of the Inter-
10 rior relating to auditing and reconciling oil and gas pro-
11 duction activities on lease sites on Federal and Indian
12 lands, including all functions of the Secretary of the Inter-
13 rior under the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management
14 Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1711).

15 (b) ENSURING RECEIPT OF ROYALTIES.—Section
16 101 of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act
17 of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701) is amended by adding at the
18 end the following new subsection:

19 “(d) In implementing this Act and in performing
20 under other Federal laws functions relating to auditing
21 and reconciling oil and gas production activities on lease
22 sites on Federal and Indian lands, the Secretary shall ex-
23 ercise all available authorities to ensure that the Govern-
24 ment of the United States receives all amounts of oil and
25 gas royalties to which it is entitled.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) FEDERAL OIL AND GAS ROYALTY MANAGEMENT

3 ACT OF 1982.—

4 (1) Section 3(15) of the Federal Oil and Gas
5 Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C.
6 1702(3)) is amended to read as follows:7 “(15) ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the
8 Treasury, except that in sections 111(e), 114, 303,
9 and 304 the term means the Secretary of the Inter-
10 rior;”.11 (2) Section 106 of the Federal Oil and Gas
12 Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1716)
13 is amended by inserting “or the Department of the
14 Treasury” after “Interior”.15 (3) Section 108(b) of the Federal Oil and Gas
16 Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C.
17 1718(b)) is amended in the first sentence by insert-
18 ing “of the Treasury or the Secretary of the Inter-
19 rior” after “Secretary”.20 (4) Section 108(c) of the Federal Oil and Gas
21 Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C.
22 1718(c)) is amended by inserting “of the Treasury
23 and the Secretary of the Interior” after “Secretary”.24 (5) Section 101(c)(2) of the Federal Oil and
25 Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C.
26 1711(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(2) The Secretary may enter into contracts or other
2 appropriate arrangements with independent certified pub-
3 lic accountants, or other entities, that have knowledge of
4 the financial practices and applicable accounting proce-
5 dures of oil and gas producers, to undertake audits of ac-
6 counts and records of any lessee or operator relating to
7 the lease of oil or gas. Selection of such independent cer-
8 tified accountants and entities shall be by competitive bid-
9 ding in accordance with title III of the Federal Property
10 and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251
11 et seq.), except that the Secretary may not enter into a
12 contract or other arrangement with any independent cer-
13 tified public accountant or other entity to audit a lessee
14 or operator if such lessee or operator is a primary audit
15 client of such certified public accountant or other entity.”.

16 **SEC. 4. REFERENCES.**

17 Any reference in any other Federal law, Executive
18 order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any
19 document of or pertaining to a function transferred by this
20 Act—

21 (1) to the Secretary of the Interior or to an of-
22 ficer of the Department of the Interior is deemed to
23 refer to the Secretary of the Treasury; or

4 SEC. 5. EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.

5 Except as otherwise provided by law, the Secretary
6 of the Treasury may, for purposes of performing the func-
7 tions transferred by this Act, exercise all authorities under
8 any other provision of law that were available with respect
9 to the performance of that function to the Secretary of
10 the Interior or any other officer of the Department of the
11 Interior immediately before the effective date of the trans-
12 fer of the function under this Act.

13 SEC. 6. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

14 (a) **LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—All orders, determinations,
15 rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agree-
16 ments, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

24 (2) that are in effect on the effective date of
25 such transfer (or become effective after such date

1 pursuant to their terms as in effect on such effective
2 date),

3 shall continue in effect according to their terms until
4 modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in
5 accordance with law by the President, the Secretary of the
6 Treasury, any other authorized official, a court of com-
7 petent jurisdiction, or operation of law.

8 (b) PROCEEDINGS.—This Act shall not affect any
9 proceedings or any application for any benefits, service,
10 license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending
11 on the date of the enactment of this Act before regarding
12 a function transferred by this Act, but such proceedings
13 and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued
14 in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and
15 payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this
16 Act had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such
17 proceeding shall continue in effect until modified, termi-
18 nated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official,
19 by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of
20 law. Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to pro-
21 hibit the discontinuance or modification of any such pro-
22 ceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the
23 same extent that such proceeding could have been discon-
24 tinued or modified if this Act had not been enacted.

1 (c) SUITS.—This Act shall not affect suits com-
2 menced before the date of the enactment of this Act, and
3 in all such suits, proceeding shall be had, appeals taken,
4 and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the
5 same effect as if this Act had not been enacted.

6 (d) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action,
7 or other proceeding commenced by or against the Depart-
8 ment of the Interior or the Secretary of the Interior, or
9 by or against any individual in the official capacity of such
10 individual as an officer or employee of the Department of
11 the Interior, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this
12 Act.

13 (e) CONTINUANCE OF SUITS.—If any Government of-
14 ficer in the official capacity of such officer is party to a
15 suit with respect to a function of the officer, and under
16 this Act such function is transferred to any other officer
17 or office, then such suit shall be continued with the other
18 officer or the head of such other office, as applicable, sub-
19 stituted or added as a party.

20 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL RE-
21 VIEW.—Except as otherwise provided by this Act, any
22 statutory requirements relating to notice, hearings, action
23 upon the record, or administrative or judicial review that
24 apply to any function transferred by this Act shall apply
25 to the exercise of such function by the head of the Federal

1 agency, and other officers of the agency, to which such
2 function is transferred by this Act.

3 **SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF ASSETS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in
5 this Act, so much of the property, records, and unex-
6 pended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other
7 funds employed, used, held, available, or to be made avail-
8 able in connection with a function transferred to the Sec-
9 retary of the Treasury by this Act shall be available to
10 the Secretary of the Treasury at such time or times as
11 the Director of the Office of Management and Budget di-
12 rects for use in connection with the function transferred.

13 (b) **PERSONNEL.**—The Director of the Office of Man-
14 agement and Budget shall provide to the Secretary of the
15 Treasury such personnel acquisition authority as the Sec-
16 retary determines to be adequate to carry out functions
17 transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury under this
18 Act.

19 (c) **TRANSITION PLAN.**—Not later than 6 months
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Interior shall
22 jointly prepare and submit to the Congress a plan ensur-
23 ing orderly transition in the performance of functions and
24 transfer of assets in accordance with this Act within not
25 later than 1 year after that date of enactment.

1 **SEC. 8. DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly prohibited by law or
3 otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary of the Treas-
4 ury may delegate any of the functions so transferred under
5 this Act to such officers and employees of the Department
6 of the Treasury as the Secretary may designate, and may
7 authorize successive redelegations of such functions as
8 may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of func-
9 tions under this section or under any other provision of
10 this Act shall relieve the official to whom a function is
11 transferred under this Act of responsibility for the admin-
12 istration of the function.

13 **SEC. 9. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MAN-
14 AGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO
15 FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.**

16 (a) **DETERMINATIONS.**—If necessary, the Director
17 shall make any determination of the functions that are
18 transferred under this Act.

19 (b) **INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.**—The Director, at such
20 time or times as the Director shall provide, may make
21 such determinations as may be necessary with regard to
22 the functions transferred by this Act, and to make such
23 additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, li-
24 abilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unex-
25 pended balances of appropriations, authorizations, alloca-
26 tions, and other funds held, used, arising from, available

1 to, or to be made available in connection with such func-
2 tions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
3 this Act. The Director shall provide for the termination
4 of the affairs of all entities terminated by this Act and
5 for such further measures and dispositions as may be nec-
6 essary to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

7 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

8 For purposes of this Act—

9 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of
10 the Office of Management and Budget;

11 (2) the term “function” includes any duty, obli-
12 gation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privi-
13 lege, activity, or program; and

14 (3) the term “office” includes any office, ad-
15 ministration, agency, bureau, institute, council, unit,
16 organizational entity, or component thereof.

