

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1467

AN ACT

To provide for the continuance of oil and gas operations pursuant to certain existing leases in the Wayne National Forest.

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To provide for the continuance of oil and gas operations pursuant to certain existing leases in the Wayne National Forest.

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. OIL AND GAS WELLS IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOR-**
2 **EST, OHIO.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior may
4 enter into noncompetitive oil and gas production and rec-
5 lamation contracts in accordance with this section with op-
6 erators of wells in the Wayne National Forest in the State
7 of Ohio who meet the criteria of section 17(b)(3)(A) of
8 the Act of February 25, 1920 (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(3)(A))
9 pursuant to private land mineral leases which were in ef-
10 fect on and after the date of the enactment of this section,
11 subject to the same laws and regulations that applied to
12 those private land mineral leases.

13 (b) **ADDITIONAL DRILLING.**—No contract under this
14 section may authorize deeper completions or additional
15 drilling.

16 (c) **BONDING.**—

17 (1) **WAIVER OF FEDERAL BONDING.**—Each
18 contract under this section shall require the contrac-
19 tor to provide a Federal oil and gas bond to ensure
20 complete and timely reclamation of the former lease
21 tract in accordance with the regulations of the Bu-
22 reau of Land Management and the Forest Service,
23 unless the Secretary of the Interior accepts in lieu
24 thereof assurances from the Ohio Department of
25 Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas, that—

1 (A) the contractor has duly satisfied the
2 bonding requirements of the State of Ohio; and
3 following inspection of operator performance,
4 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is
5 not opposed to such waiver of Federal bonding
6 requirements;

7 (B) the United States of America is enti-
8 tled to apply for and receive funding under the
9 provision of section 1509.071 of the Ohio Re-
10 vised Code so as to properly plug and restore
11 oil and gas sites and lease tracts; and

12 (C) during the 2 years prior to the date on
13 which the contract is entered into no less than
14 20 percent of Ohio State severance tax revenues
15 has been allocated to the State of Ohio Orphan
16 Well Fund.

17 (2) CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH 20 PERCENT
18 REQUIREMENT.—In entering into any contract under
19 this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall re-
20 serve the right to require the contractor to comply
21 with all Federal oil and gas bonding requirements
22 applicable to Federal oil and gas leases under the
23 regulations of the Bureau of Land Management and
24 the Forest Service whenever the Secretary finds that
25 less than 20 percent of Ohio State severance tax rev-

1 enues has been allocated to the State of Ohio Or-
2 phan Well Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives October 15,
1998.

Attest:

Clerk.