

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 213

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. NEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

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

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

5       (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior may  
6       enter into noncompetitive oil and gas production and rec-  
7       lamation contracts in accordance with this section with op-  
8       erators of wells in the Wayne National Forest in the State  
9       of Ohio who meet the criteria of section 17(b)(3)(A) of  
10      the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(3)(A)) pursu-

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1 ant to private land mineral leases that were in effect on  
2 and after the date of the enactment of such section, sub-  
3 ject to the same laws and regulations that applied to those  
4 private land mineral leases.

5 (b) ADDITIONAL DRILLING.—No contract under this  
6 section may authorize deeper completions or additional  
7 drilling.

8 (c) BONDING.—

9 (1) WAIVER OF FEDERAL BONDING.—Each  
10 contract under this section shall require the contrac-  
11 tor to provide a Federal oil and gas bond to ensure  
12 complete and timely reclamation of the former lease  
13 tract in accordance with the regulations of the Bu-  
14 reau of Land Management and the Forest Service,  
15 unless the Secretary of the Interior accepts in lieu  
16 thereof assurances from the Ohio Department of  
17 Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas, that—

18 (A) the contractor has duly satisfied the  
19 bonding requirements of the State of Ohio, and,  
20 following inspection of operator performance,  
21 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is  
22 not opposed to such waiver of Federal bonding  
23 requirements;

24 (B) the United States is entitled to apply  
25 for and receive funding under the provision of

1 section 1509.071 of the Ohio Revised Code so  
2 as to properly plug and restore oil and gas sites  
3 and lease tracts; and

4 (C) during the 2 years prior to the date on  
5 which the contract is entered into no less than  
6 20 percent of Ohio State severance tax revenues  
7 has been allocated to the State of Ohio Orphan  
8 Well Fund.

9 (2) CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH 20 PERCENT  
10 REQUIREMENT.—In entering into any contract under  
11 this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall re-  
12 serve the right to require the contractor to comply  
13 with all Federal oil and gas bonding requirements  
14 applicable to Federal oil and gas leases under the  
15 regulations of the Bureau of Land Management and  
16 the Forest Service whenever the Secretary finds that  
17 less than 20 percent of Ohio State severance tax rev-  
18 enues has been allocated to the State of Ohio Or-  
19 phan Well Fund.

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