

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4035

To establish a commission to review and explore ways for the United States to become energy self-sufficient by 2010.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2000

Mr. GEKAS (for himself, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To establish a commission to review and explore ways for the United States to become energy self-sufficient by 2010.

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 “National Resource
5 Governance Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) energy prices have risen dramatically, lead-
9 ing to significant harm to particular sectors of the
10 economy;

1 (2) an affordable domestic energy supply is
2 vital to the continued growth and vitality of our Na-
3 tion's economy;

4 (3) an uninterrupted supply of oil and other en-
5 ergy is necessary to protect the United States na-
6 tional security interests; and

7 (4) the United States continued dependence on
8 foreign sources of energy, particularly on the Orga-
9 nization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC),
10 for the majority of its petroleum and energy needs
11 is harmful to our national security and will not
12 guarantee lower fuel prices and protect our economy.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

14 There is established the National Energy Self-Suffi-
15 ciency Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Com-
16 mission").

17 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

18 (a) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are—

19 (1) to investigate and study issues and prob-
20 lems relating to issues involving the importation of
21 and dependence on foreign sources of energy;

22 (2) to evaluate proposals and current arrange-
23 ments with respect to such issues and problems with
24 the goal of seeking out ways to make the United

1 States self-sufficient in the production of energy by
2 the year 2010;

3 (3) to explore whether alternate sources of en-
4 ergy such as ethanol, solar power, electricity, natural
5 gas, coal, hydrogen, wind energy, and any other
6 forms of alternative power sources should be consid-
7 ered, including other potential and actual sources;

8 (4) to investigate the affordability of oil explo-
9 ration and drilling in areas which currently are not
10 being used for drilling, whether because of the cost
11 of doing so, because of current law, or because of
12 environmental regulation that may prohibit such
13 drilling;

14 (5) to appear at any congressional oversight
15 hearing before the proper congressional oversight
16 committee to testify as to the progress and operation
17 of the Commission and its findings;

18 (6) to consider tax credits and other financial
19 incentives, along with expanded drilling in areas
20 such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and off-
21 shore, to help promote and establish the viability
22 and research of alternative forms of energy and do-
23 mestic oil exploration;

1 (7) to prepare and submit to the Congress and
2 the President a report in accordance with section 9;
3 and

4 (8) to take into account the adverse environ-
5 mental impact of its proposals.

6 (b) LIMITATION.—This Act shall not permit the Com-
7 mission to recommend an increase in taxes or other reve-
8 nues or import restrictions on oil or other commodities.

9 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

10 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
11 shall be composed of 9 members as follows:

12 (1) 3 members appointed by the President, 1 of
13 whom shall be designated as chairman by the Presi-
14 dent.

15 (2) 2 members appointed by the Majority Lead-
16 er of the Senate.

17 (3) 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader
18 of the Senate.

19 (4) 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 (5) 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader
22 of the House of Representatives.

23 (b) TERM.—Members of the Commission shall be ap-
24 pointed for the life of the Commission.

1 (c) QUORUM.—5 members of the Commission shall
2 constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may conduct
3 meetings.

4 (d) APPOINTMENT DEADLINE.—The first appoint-
5 ments made under subsection (a) shall be made within 60
6 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

7 (e) FIRST MEETING.—The first meeting of the Com-
8 mission shall be called by the chairman and shall be held
9 within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

10 (f) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Commission result-
11 ing from the death or resignation of a member shall not
12 affect its powers and shall be filled in the same manner
13 in which the original appointment was made.

14 (g) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If any mem-
15 ber of the Commission who was appointed to the Commis-
16 sion as a Member of Congress or as an officer or employee
17 of a government leaves that office, or if any member of
18 the Commission who was not appointed in such a capacity
19 becomes an officer or employee of a government, the mem-
20 ber may continue as a member of the Commission for not
21 longer than the 90-day period beginning on the date the
22 member leaves that office or becomes such an officer or
23 employee, as the case may be.

24 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION.**

25 (a) PAY.—

1 (1) NONGOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Each
 2 member of the Commission who is not otherwise em-
 3 ployed by the United States Government shall be en-
 4 title to receive the daily equivalent of the annual
 5 rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Execu-
 6 tive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
 7 States Code, for each day (including travel time)
 8 during which he or she is engaged in the actual per-
 9 formance of duties as a member of the Commission.

10 (2) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—A member of
 11 the Commission who is an officer or employee of the
 12 United States Government shall serve without addi-
 13 tional compensation.

14 (b) TRAVEL.—Members of the Commission shall be
 15 reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary ex-
 16 penses incurred by them in the performance of their du-
 17 ties.

18 **SEC. 7. STAFF OF COMMISSION; EXPERTS AND CONSULT-**
 19 **ANTS.**

20 (a) STAFF.—

21 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The chairman of the Com-
 22 mission may, without regard to the civil service laws
 23 and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive
 24 director and such other personnel as are necessary
 25 to enable the Commission to perform its duties. The

1 employment of an executive director shall be subject
2 to confirmation by the Commission.

3 (2) COMPENSATION.—The chairman of the
4 Commission may fix the compensation of the execu-
5 tive director and other personnel without regard to
6 the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter II of
7 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating
8 to classification of positions and General Schedule
9 pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the execu-
10 tive director and other personnel may not exceed the
11 rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule
12 under section 5316 of that title.

13 (b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission
14 may procure temporary and intermittent services of ex-
15 perts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5,
16 United States Code.

17 **SEC. 8. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

18 (a) HEARINGS AND MEETINGS.—The Commission or,
19 on authorization of the Commission, a member of the
20 Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such
21 time and places, take such testimony, and receive such evi-
22 dence as the Commission considers appropriate. The Com-
23 mission or a member of the Commission may administer
24 oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

1 (b) OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission may secure
2 directly from any Federal department, agency, or court
3 information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act.
4 Upon request of the chairman of the Commission, the
5 head of a Federal department or agency or chief judge
6 of a Federal court shall furnish such information to the
7 Commission.

8 (c) FACILITIES AND SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Ad-
9 ministrator of General Services shall provide to the Com-
10 mission on a reimbursable basis such facilities and support
11 services as the Commission may request. Upon request of
12 the Commission, the head of a Federal department or
13 agency may make any of the facilities or services of the
14 agency available to the Commission to assist the Commis-
15 sion in carrying out its duties under this Act.

16 (d) EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS.—The Commis-
17 sion or, on authorization of the Commission, a member
18 of the Commission may make expenditures and enter into
19 contracts for the procurement of such supplies, services,
20 and property as the Commission or member considers ap-
21 propriate for the purposes of carrying out the duties of
22 the Commission. Such expenditures and contracts may be
23 made only to such extent or in such amounts as are pro-
24 vided in appropriation Acts.

1 (e) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
2 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
3 ditions as other Federal departments and agencies of the
4 United States.

5 (f) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and
6 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

7 **SEC. 9. REPORT.**

8 The Commission shall submit to the Congress and
9 the President a report not later than 2 years after the
10 date of its first meeting. The report shall contain a de-
11 tailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the
12 Commission, together with its recommendations for such
13 legislative or administrative action as it considers appro-
14 priate.

15 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

16 The Commission shall cease to exist on the date that
17 is 30 days after the date on which it submits its report
18 under section 9.

19 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,500,000 to
21 carry out this Act for each fiscal year for the duration
22 of the Commission.

○