

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3538

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to reduce impediments to the prompt development of natural gas and oil resources on Federal lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2001

Mrs. CUBIN (for herself and Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to reduce impediments to the prompt development of natural gas and oil resources on Federal lands.

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 “Mineral Leasing Act
5 Revision of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF PRODUCING ACREAGE FROM LIM-**
 2 **TATION ON TAKING, HOLDING, OWNING, AND**
 3 **CONTROLLING FEDERAL OIL AND GAS**
 4 **LEASES.**

5 Section 27(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
 6 184(d)(1)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “(d)(1)” and inserting “(d) LIM-
 8 ITATIONS ON TAKING, HOLDING, OWNING, AND
 9 CONTROLLING LEASES AND LEASE OPTIONS.—
 10 (1)(A)”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (1)—

12 (A) by striking “: *Provided, however, That*”
 13 and inserting “. Producing acreage and”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘pro-
 16 ducing acreage’ means, with respect to a calendar year,
 17 any oil or gas lease—

18 “(i) for which minimum royalty, royalty, royalty
 19 in kind, or compensatory royalty was paid during
 20 the calendar year;

21 “(ii) with respect to which the Secretary of the
 22 Interior, under section 39, waived the obligation to
 23 pay any of those forms of royalty during the cal-
 24 endar year; or

25 “(iii) all or a portion of which is subject during
 26 the calendar year to a cooperative or unit plan of de-

1 velopment or operation or communitization agree-
2 ment under section 17(m).”.

3 **SEC. 3. SEPARATE APPLICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON TAK-**
4 **ING, HOLDING, OWNING, AND CONTROLLING**
5 **LEASES AND LEASE OPTIONS.**

6 Section 27(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
7 184(d)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(3)(A) In applying paragraph (1) or (2) to leases
10 or options for public land that are taken, held, owned, or
11 controlled by an entity, the Secretary shall not consider
12 leases or options, respectively, for acquired land that are
13 taken, held, owned, or controlled by the entity.

14 “(B) In applying paragraph (1) or (2) to leases or
15 options for acquired land that are taken, held, owned, or
16 controlled by an entity, the Secretary shall not consider
17 leases or options, respectively, for public land that are
18 taken, held, owned, or controlled by the entity.

19 “(C) In this paragraph—

20 “(i) the term ‘acquired land’ has the meaning
21 given the term ‘acquired lands’ in section 2 of the
22 Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C.
23 351); and

- 1 “(ii) the term ‘entity’ means a person, associa-
2 tion, or corporation.”.

