

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 771

To permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

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. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN**  
4                       **CERTAIN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTI-**  
5                       **NENTAL SHELF.**

6       Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act  
7       (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the  
8       following:

1       “(p) PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN  
 2 CERTAIN AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—  
 3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any  
 4 other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue a  
 5 lease for the exploration, development, or production of  
 6 oil, natural gas, or any other mineral in—

7               “(1) the eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area;

8               “(2) the Straits of Florida planning area; or

9               “(3) the South Atlantic planning area, extend-  
 10 ing from the Straits of Florida planning area to the  
 11 border between the States of Florida and Georgia.”.

12 **SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.**

13       (a) CONDITIONS FOR BIDDING ON OPTION TO  
 14 LEASE.—The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42  
 15 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section  
 16 24 the following:

17 **“SEC. 24A. CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF OPTION TO LEASE.**

18       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The sale of an option to enter  
 19 into an oil and gas lease described in section 25 (including  
 20 a lease to drill an exploratory well) shall be contingent  
 21 on—

22               “(1) the preparation, in accordance with the  
 23 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
 24 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) of an environmental impact

1 statement concerning the activities to be conducted  
2 under the oil and gas lease; and

3 “(2) after preparation of the environmental im-  
4 pact statement, the completion by the affected State  
5 of a consistency certification in accordance with sec-  
6 tion 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of  
7 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)).

8 “(b) EXCLUDED PLANS.—This section does not apply  
9 to a plan for the production and transportation of natural  
10 gas described in section 25(k).”.

11 (b) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA TO DEVELOPMENT  
12 PLANS.—Section 25(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
13 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(d)) is amended by striking  
14 “unless the State” and inserting “unless the State, after  
15 completion of the environmental impact statement under  
16 section 24A,”.

17 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF  
18 PLANS.—Section 25(h)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
19 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(h)(1)) is amended in the first  
20 sentence by striking “sixty” each place it appears and in-  
21 serting “90”.

22 (d) APPLICABILITY TO LEASES IN THE GULF OF  
23 MEXICO.—Section 25 of the Outer Continental Shelf  
24 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “, other than the Gulf of Mex-  
 2 ico,” each place it appears; and

3 (2) by striking subsection (l).

4 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) Section 25(a) of the Outer Continental  
 6 Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(a)) is amended—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “accompanied by a  
 9 statement” and inserting “accompanied  
 10 by—

11 “(A) a statement”;

12 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
 13 and inserting “; and”; and

14 (iii) by inserting the following:

15 “(B) a copy of the environmental impact  
 16 statement for the oil and gas lease prepared  
 17 under section 24A”; and

18 (B) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-  
 19 ing the following:

20 “(3) SUBMISSION OF STATEMENTS.—Except for any  
 21 privileged or proprietary information (as the term is de-  
 22 fined in regulations promulgated by the Secretary), the  
 23 Secretary, not later than 10 days after receipt of the state-  
 24 ments described in paragraph (2), shall—

1 “(A) submit the statements to the Governor of  
 2 any affected State, and, upon request, to the chief  
 3 executive officer of any affected local government;  
 4 and

5 “(B) make the statements available to any ap-  
 6 propriate interstate regional entity and the public.”.

7 (2) Section 25(e)(2) of the Outer Continental  
 8 Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(e)(2)) is amended  
 9 by striking “approved,” and inserting “approved (in-  
 10 cluding plans for exploratory wells),”.

11 (3) Section 25(f) of the Outer Continental Shelf  
 12 Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(f)) is amended by strik-  
 13 ing “the draft environmental impact statement” and  
 14 insert “a copy of the environmental impact state-  
 15 ment for the lease prepared under section 24A”.

16 (4) Section 25(h)(1) of the Outer Continental  
 17 Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1351(h)(1)) is amended  
 18 by striking “subsection (e) of this section” and in-  
 19 serting “section 24A”.

20 **SEC. 3. BUYBACK OF OFFSHORE LEASES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may  
 22 purchase the rights to oil and gas development and pro-  
 23 duction covered by the following outstanding leases in the  
 24 Gulf of Mexico:

1           (1) In the Destin Dome planing area, each of  
2       leases numbered G06401, G06402, G06405 through  
3       G06411, G06432, G06433, G06436, G06440,  
4       G06442 through G06444, G08320 through G08322,  
5       G08333, G08334, G08346, G10418, G10419,  
6       G10422, G10426, and G10427, at a total cost of  
7       \$38,573,458.

8           (2) In the Desoto Canyon planning area, each  
9       of leases numbered G06464, G06469, G06470,  
10      G06474 through G06477, G10446 through G10456,  
11      G10459 through G10467, G10471 through G10473,  
12      and G10477, at a total cost of \$12,278,600.

13          (3) In the Elbow region, each of leases num-  
14      bered G10498 through G10514, at a total cost of  
15      \$4,348,640.

16          (4) In the Pensacola planning area, each of  
17      leases numbered G08308 through G08310, G08317  
18      through G08319, G10408 through G10410, and  
19      G10413 through G10417, at a total cost of  
20      \$16,793,300.

21          (5) In the Lloyd planning area, each of leases  
22      numbered G10493 through G10497, at total cost of  
23      \$1,213,704.

1           (6) In the Apalachicola planning area, each of  
2       leases numbered G10430 through G10435, at a total  
3       cost of \$2,936,700.

4           (7) In the Florida Middle Ground planning  
5       area, each of leases numbered G08361 through  
6       G08368, G10484, and G10485, at a total cost of  
7       \$14,018,000.

8       (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
9       authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)  
10      \$90,162,402.

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