

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4194

To reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2004

Mrs. CUBIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Soda Ash Royalty Re-
5 duction Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The combination of global competitive pres-
9 sures, flat domestic demand, and spiraling costs of

1 production threaten the future of the United States
2 soda ash industry.

3 (2) Despite booming world demand, growth in
4 United States exports of soda ash since 1997 has
5 been flat, with most of the world's largest markets
6 for such growth, including Brazil, the People's Re-
7 public of China, India, the countries of eastern Eu-
8 rope, and the Republic of South Africa, have been
9 closed by protectionist policies.

10 (3) The People's Republic of China is the prime
11 competitor of the United States in soda ash produc-
12 tion, and recently supplanted the United States as
13 the largest producer of soda ash in the world.

14 (4) Over 700 jobs have been lost in the United
15 States soda ash industry since the Department of
16 the Interior increased the royalty rate on soda ash
17 produced on Federal land, in 1996.

18 (5) Reduction of the royalty rate on soda ash
19 produced on Federal land will provide needed relief
20 to the United States soda ash industry and allow it
21 to increase export growth and competitiveness in
22 emerging world markets, and create new jobs in the
23 United States.

1 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN ROYALTY RATE ON SODA ASH.**

2 Notwithstanding section 24 of the Mineral Leasing
3 Act (30 U.S.C. 262) and the terms of any lease under
4 that Act, the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal
5 land in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the en-
6 actment of this Act shall be 2 percent.

7 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

8 After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of
10 the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary
11 of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects
12 of the royalty reduction under this Act, including—

13 (1) the amount of soda ash produced on Fed-
14 eral land during that 4-year period;

15 (2) the number of jobs that have been created
16 or maintained as a result of the royalty reduction;

17 (3) the total amount of royalty paid to the
18 United States on soda ash produced during that 4-
19 year period; and

20 (4) a recommendation of whether the reduced
21 royalty rate should apply after the end of the 5-year
22 period beginning on the date of the enactment of
23 this Act.

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