

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3171

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain tax-exempt financing of energy transportation infrastructure from the private business use tests, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2008

Mr. BARRASSO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain tax-exempt financing of energy transportation infrastructure from the private business use tests, 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. TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING OF ENERGY TRANS-**
4 **PORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE NOT SUBJECT**
5 **TO PRIVATE BUSINESS USE TESTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 141(b)(6) of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986 (defining private business use) is

1 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
 2 graph:

3 “(C) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN ENERGY
 4 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
 6 the 1st sentence of subparagraph (A), the
 7 operation or use of any property described
 8 in clause (ii) by any person which is not a
 9 governmental unit shall not be considered
 10 a private business use.

11 “(ii) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—For
 12 purposes of clause (i), the following prop-
 13 erty is described in this clause:

14 “(I) Any tangible property used
 15 to transmit electricity at 230 or more
 16 kilovolts if such property is placed in
 17 service as part of a State or multi-
 18 State effort to improve interstate elec-
 19 tricity transmission and is physically
 20 located in not less than 2 States.

21 “(II) Any tangible property used
 22 to transmit electricity generated from
 23 renewable resources.

24 “(III) Any tangible property used
 25 as a transmission pipeline for crude

oil or diesel fuel produced from coal or other synthetic petroleum products produced from coal if such property is placed in service as part of a State or multi-State effort to improve the transportation of crude oil or diesel fuel produced from coal or other synthetic petroleum products produced from coal.

“(IV) Any tangible property used as a carbon dioxide transmission pipeline if such property is placed in service as part of a State or multi-State effort to improve interstate or intrastate efforts to develop transportation infrastructure for purposes of permanently sequestering carbon dioxide.”.

(b) EXCEPTION TO PRIVATE LOAN FINANCING

TEST.—Section 141(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to exception for tax assessment, etc., loans) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph

(B),

(2) by striking the period at the end of sub-

paragraph (C) and inserting “, or”, and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 paragraph:

3 “(D) enables the borrower to finance any
4 property described in subsection (b)(6)(C)(ii).”.

5 (c) REDUCTION OF STATE VOLUME CAP BY AMOUNT
6 OF ENERGY TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FI-
7 NANCING.—Section 146 of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986 (relating to volume cap) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following new subsection:

10 “(o) REDUCTION FOR ENERGY TRANSPORTATION IN-
11 FRASTRUCTURE FINANCING.—The volume cap of any
12 issuing authority for any calendar year shall be reduced
13 by the amount of bonds issued as part of an issue by such
14 authority to provide for property described in section
15 141(b)(6)(C)(ii).”.

16 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
17 this section shall apply to bonds issued after the date of
18 the enactment of this Act and before December 31, 2015.

19 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION OF**
20 **CERTAIN PIPELINE PROPERTY.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of section:

22 (1) ASSESSMENT.—The term “assessment”
23 means valuation for a property tax levied by a taxing
24 authority.

1 (2) ASSESSMENT JURISDICTION.—The term
2 “assessment jurisdiction” means a geographical area
3 used in determining the assessed value of property
4 for ad valorem taxation.

5 (3) COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROP-
6 PERTY.—The term “commercial and industrial prop-
7 erty” means property (excluding pipeline property,
8 public utility property, and land used primarily for
9 agricultural purposes or timber growth) devoted to
10 commercial or industrial use and subject to a prop-
11 erty tax levy.

12 (4) PIPELINE PROPERTY.—The term “pipeline
13 property” means all property, real, personal, and in-
14 tangible, owned or used by a natural gas pipeline
15 providing transportation or storage of natural gas,
16 subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy
17 Regulatory Commission.

18 (5) PUBLIC UTILITY PROPERTY.—The term
19 “public utility property” means property (excluding
20 pipeline property) that is devoted to public service
21 and is owned or used by any entity that performs a
22 public service and is regulated by any governmental
23 agency.

24 (b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTS.—The acts specified in
25 this subsection unreasonably burden and discriminate

1 against interstate commerce. A State, subdivision of a
 2 State, authority acting for a State or subdivision of a
 3 State, or any other taxing authority (including a taxing
 4 jurisdiction and a taxing district) may not do any of the
 5 following such acts:

6 (1) Assess pipeline property at a value that has
 7 a higher ratio to the true market value of the pipe-
 8 line property than the ratio that the assessed value
 9 of other commercial and industrial property in the
 10 same assessment jurisdiction has to the true market
 11 value of the other commercial and industrial prop-
 12 erty.

13 (2) Levy or collect a tax on an assessment that
 14 may not be made under paragraph (1).

15 (3) Levy or collect an ad valorem property tax
 16 on pipeline property at a tax rate that exceeds the
 17 tax rate applicable to commercial and industrial
 18 property in the same assessment jurisdiction.

19 (4) Impose any other tax that discriminates
 20 against a pipeline providing transportation subject to
 21 the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory
 22 Commission.

23 (c) JURISDICTION OF COURTS; RELIEF.—

24 (1) GRANT OF JURISDICTION.—Notwith-
 25 standing section 1341 of title 28, United States

1 Code, and notions of comity, and without regard to
2 the amount in controversy or citizenship of the par-
3 ties, the district courts of the United States shall
4 have jurisdiction, concurrent with other jurisdiction
5 of the courts of the United States, of States, and of
6 all other taxing authorities and taxing jurisdictions,
7 to prevent a violation of subsection (b).

8 (2) RELIEF.—Except as otherwise provided in
9 this paragraph, relief may be granted under this Act
10 only if the ratio of assessed value to true market
11 value of pipeline property exceeds by at least 5 per-
12 cent the ratio of assessed value to true market value
13 of other commercial and industrial property in the
14 same assessment jurisdiction. If the ratio of the as-
15 sessed value of other commercial and industrial
16 property in the assessment jurisdiction to the true
17 market value of all other commercial and industrial
18 property cannot be determined to the satisfaction of
19 the court through the random-sampling method
20 known as a sales assessment ratio study (to be car-
21 ried out under statistical principles applicable to
22 such a study), each of the following shall be a viola-
23 tion of subsection (b) for which relief under this sec-
24 tion may be granted:

(A) An assessment of the pipeline property at a value that has a higher ratio of assessed value to the true market value of the pipeline property than the ratio of the assessed value of all other property (excluding public utility property) subject to a property tax levy in the assessment jurisdiction has to the true market value of all other property (excluding public utility property).

(B) The collection of an ad valorem property tax on the pipeline property at a tax rate that exceeds the tax rate applicable to all other taxable property (excluding public utility property) in the taxing jurisdiction.

SEC. 3. NATURAL GAS PIPELINE INTEGRITY REASSESSMENT INTERVALS BASED ON RISK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60109(c)(3)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, until the Secretary issues regulations basing the reassessment intervals on technical data, risk factors, and engineering analysis, consistent with the recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States in Report 06–945” after “subparagraph (A)”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
3 of this Act.

