

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4792

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Minerals Management Service, to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Minerals Management Service, to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States.

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. TECHNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, SURVEY, AND**
4 **STUDY OF DEEP SEABED MINERALS.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior,
6 acting through the Minerals Management Service and in

1 consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal
2 agencies, shall conduct—

3 (1) an assessment of all available domestic tech-
4 nological capabilities required for the location and
5 the efficient and environmentally sound recovery of
6 minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the
7 shallow and deep seabed of the United States;

8 (2) a survey of the shallow and deep seabed of
9 the United States to identify sites for the recovery
10 of such minerals; and

11 (3) an economic feasibility study on the recov-
12 ery of such minerals.

13 (b) REPORT.—No later than 2 years after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a re-
15 port to Congress containing the findings and recommenda-
16 tions of the assessment, survey, and study under this sec-
17 tion.

18 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section the term “shallow
19 and deep seabed of the United States”—

20 (1) means areas of the seabed that are contig-
21 uous to and within 200 miles of the territorial sea
22 of the United States and the resources of which are
23 subject to its jurisdiction or control; and

24 (2) includes such areas that are contiguous to
25 and within 200 miles of the territorial sea around

1 any inhabited and uninhabited territory or posses-
2 sion of the United States including American
3 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
4 Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
5 Midway Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia,
6 Palau, Marshall Islands, Midway Islands, Wake Is-
7 land, Johnston Atoll, Baker, Howland, and Jarvis
8 Islands, Kingman Reef, Navassa Island, Serranilla
9 Bank, Bajo Nuevo Bank, and Palmyra Atoll.

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