

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6212

To provide for a moratorium on oil and gas leasing and exploration on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida until 2032, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SOTO, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MAST, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mrs. CAMMACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for a moratorium on oil and gas leasing and exploration on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida until 2032, 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 “Preserving Recreation,
5 Oceans, Tourism, Environment, and Coastal Towns in
6 Florida Act” or the “PROTECT Florida Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS LEASING AND EX-**
2 **PLORATION ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL**
3 **SHELF OFF COAST OF FLORIDA.**

4 (a) EXTENSION OF GULF COAST MORATORIUM.—
5 Section 104(a) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
6 of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “2022” and inserting “2032”;
8 and

9 (2) by inserting “, and may not issue a permit
10 for oil and gas exploration (as such term is defined
11 in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
12 Act) in” after “related activity”.

13 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF ATLANTIC COAST MORATO-
14 RIUM.—Section 12 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
15 Act (43 U.S.C. 1431) is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 “(g) MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS LEASING AND
18 SEISMIC TESTING OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not
20 offer for oil and gas leasing, preleasing, or any re-
21 lated activity, including seismic testing, and may not
22 issue a permit for oil and gas exploration in—

23 “(A) any area in the Straits of Florida
24 Planning Area; and

25 “(B) any area in the South Atlantic Plan-
26 ning Area that is south of the northernmost lat-

1 eral seaward administrative boundary of the
2 State of Florida.

3 “(2) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall
4 apply during the period beginning on the date of the
5 enactment of this Act and ending on June 30,
6 2029.”.

○