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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES.

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Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to  
H.R. 527, with an amendment.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington submitted the following resolution; which was  
referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate  
amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment.

1       *Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution  
2 the House shall be considered to have taken from the  
3 Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 527, with the Senate amend-  
4 ment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amend-  
5 ment with the following amendment:

1 In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the  
2 amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert  
3 the following:

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This Act may be cited as the “Helium Stewardship  
6 Act of 2013”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

11 “In this Act:

12 “(1) CLIFFSIDE FIELD.—The term ‘Cliffside  
13 Field’ means the helium storage reservoir in which  
14 the Federal Helium Reserve is stored.

15 “(2) FEDERAL HELIUM PIPELINE.—The term  
16 ‘Federal Helium Pipeline’ means the federally owned  
17 pipeline system through which helium for the Fed-  
18 eral Helium Reserve may be transported.

19 “(3) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—The term  
20 ‘Federal Helium Reserve’ means helium reserves  
21 owned by the United States.

22 “(4) FEDERAL HELIUM SYSTEM.—The term  
23 ‘Federal Helium System’ means—

24 “(A) the Federal Helium Reserve;

25 “(B) the Cliffside Field;

1 “(C) the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

2 “(D) all other infrastructure owned,  
3 leased, or managed under contract by the Sec-  
4 retary for the storage, transportation, with-  
5 drawal, enrichment, purification, or manage-  
6 ment of helium.

7 “(5) FEDERAL USER.—The term ‘Federal user’  
8 means a Federal agency or extramural holder of one  
9 or more Federal research grants using helium.

10 “(6) LOW-BTU GAS.—The term ‘low-Btu gas’  
11 means a fuel gas with a heating value of less than  
12 250 Btu per standard cubic foot measured as the  
13 higher heating value resulting from the inclusion of  
14 noncombustible gases, including nitrogen, helium,  
15 argon, and carbon dioxide.

16 “(7) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means any  
17 individual, corporation, partnership, firm, associa-  
18 tion, trust, estate, public or private institution, or  
19 State or political subdivision.

20 “(8) PRIORITY PIPELINE ACCESS.—The term  
21 ‘priority pipeline access’ means the first priority of  
22 delivery of crude helium under which the Secretary  
23 schedules and ensures the delivery of crude helium  
24 to a helium refinery through the Federal Helium  
25 System.

1           “(9) QUALIFIED BIDDER.—

2                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified  
3 bidder’ means a person the Secretary deter-  
4 mines is seeking to purchase helium for their  
5 own use, refining, or redelivery to users.

6                   “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘qualified  
7 bidder’ does not include a person who was pre-  
8 viously determined to be a qualified bidder if  
9 the Secretary determines that the person did  
10 not meet the requirements of a qualified bidder  
11 under this Act.

12           “(10) QUALIFYING DOMESTIC HELIUM TRANS-  
13 ACTION.—The term ‘qualifying domestic helium  
14 transaction’ means any agreement entered into or  
15 renegotiated agreement during the preceding 1-year  
16 period in the United States for the purchase or sale  
17 of at least 15,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude  
18 or pure helium to which any holder of a contract  
19 with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, deliv-  
20 ery, or redelivery of crude helium from the Federal  
21 Helium System is a party.

22           “(11) REFINER.—The term ‘refiner’ means a  
23 person with the ability to take delivery of crude he-  
24 lium from the Federal Helium Pipeline and refine  
25 the crude helium into pure helium.

1           “(12) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
2           means the Secretary of the Interior.”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.**

4           Section 3 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167a) is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6           “(c) EXTRACTION OF HELIUM FROM DEPOSITS ON  
7 FEDERAL LAND.—All amounts received by the Secretary  
8 from the sale or disposition of helium on Federal land  
9 shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund estab-  
10 lished under section 6(e).”.

11 **SEC. 4. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.**

12           Section 5 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167e) is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 5. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.**

15           “(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary provides helium  
16 storage, withdrawal, or transportation services to any per-  
17 son, the Secretary shall impose a fee on the person that  
18 accurately reflects the economic value of those services.

19           “(b) MINIMUM FEES.—The fees charged under sub-  
20 section (a) shall be not less than the amount required to  
21 reimburse the Secretary for the full costs of providing  
22 storage, withdrawal, or transportation services, including  
23 capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the  
24 Federal Helium System.

1           “(c) SCHEDULE OF FEES.—Prior to sale or auction  
2 under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 6, the Secretary  
3 shall annually publish a standardized schedule of fees that  
4 the Secretary will charge under this section.

5           “(d) TREATMENT.—All fees received by the Secretary  
6 under this section shall be credited to the Helium Produc-  
7 tion Fund established under section 6(e).

8           “(e) STORAGE AND DELIVERY.—In accordance with  
9 this section, the Secretary shall—

10           “(1) allow any person or qualified bidder to  
11 which crude helium is sold or auctioned under sec-  
12 tion 6 to store helium in the Federal Helium Re-  
13 serve; and

14           “(2) establish a schedule for the transportation  
15 and delivery of helium using the Federal Helium  
16 System that—

17           “(A) ensures timely delivery of helium auc-  
18 tioned pursuant to section 6(b)(2);

19           “(B) ensures timely delivery of helium ac-  
20 quired from the Secretary from the Federal He-  
21 lium Reserve by means other than an auction  
22 under section 6(b)(2), including nonallocated  
23 sales; and

1                   “(C) provides priority access to the Fed-  
2                   eral Helium Pipeline for in-kind sales for Fed-  
3                   eral users.

4                   “(f) NEW PIPELINE ACCESS.—The Secretary shall  
5 consider any applications for access to the Federal Helium  
6 Pipeline in a manner consistent with the schedule for  
7 phasing out commercial sales and disposition of assets  
8 pursuant to section 6.”.

9 **SEC. 5. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.**

10                  Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 **“SEC. 6. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.**

13                  “(a) PHASE A: ALLOCATION TRANSITION.—

14                         “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer  
15 crude helium for sale in such quantities, at such  
16 times, at not less than the minimum price estab-  
17 lished under subsection (b)(7), and under such  
18 terms and conditions as the Secretary determines  
19 necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum  
20 market disruption.

21                         “(2) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users  
22 may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline  
23 access under this subsection from persons who have  
24 entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an

1 equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind  
2 price from the Secretary.

3 “(3) DURATION.—This subsection applies dur-  
4 ing—

5 “(A) the period beginning on the date of  
6 enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of  
7 2013 and ending on September 30, 2014; and

8 “(B) any period during which the sale of  
9 helium under subsection (b) is delayed or sus-  
10 pended.

11 “(b) PHASE B: AUCTION IMPLEMENTATION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer  
13 crude helium for sale in quantities not subject to  
14 auction under paragraph (2), after completion of  
15 each auction, at not less than the minimum price es-  
16 tablished under paragraph (7), and under such  
17 terms and conditions as the Secretary determines  
18 necessary—

19 “(A) to maximize total recovery of helium  
20 from the Federal Helium Reserve over the long  
21 term;

22 “(B) to maximize the total financial return  
23 to the taxpayer;

24 “(C) to manage crude helium sales accord-  
25 ing to the ability of the Secretary to extract and



1 produce helium from the Federal Helium Re-  
2 serve;

3 “(D) to give priority to meeting the helium  
4 demand of Federal users in the event of any  
5 disruption to the Federal Helium Reserve; and

6 “(E) to carry out this subsection with min-  
7 imum market disruption.

8 “(2) AUCTION QUANTITIES.—For the period de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (4) and consistent with the  
10 conditions described in paragraph (8), the Secretary  
11 shall annually auction to any qualified bidder a  
12 quantity of crude helium in the Federal Helium Re-  
13 serve equal to—

14 “(A) for fiscal year 2015, 10 percent of  
15 the total volume of crude helium made available  
16 for that fiscal year;

17 “(B) for each of fiscal years 2016 through  
18 2019, a percentage of the total volume of crude  
19 helium that is 15 percentage points greater  
20 than the percentage made available for the pre-  
21 vious fiscal year; and

22 “(C) for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal  
23 year thereafter, 100 percent of the total volume  
24 of crude helium made available for that fiscal  
25 year.

1           “(3) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users  
2           may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline  
3           access under this subsection from persons who have  
4           entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an  
5           equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind  
6           price from the Secretary.

7           “(4) DURATION.—This subsection applies dur-  
8           ing the period—

9                   “(A) beginning on October 1, 2014; and

10                   “(B) ending on the date on which the vol-  
11                   ume of recoverable crude helium at the Federal  
12                   Helium Reserve (other than privately owned  
13                   quantities of crude helium stored temporarily at  
14                   the Federal Helium Reserve under section 5  
15                   and this section) is 3,000,000,000 standard  
16                   cubic feet.

17           “(5) SAFETY VALVE.—The Secretary may ad-  
18           just the quantities specified in paragraph (2)—

19                   “(A) downward, if the Secretary deter-  
20                   mines the adjustment necessary—

21                           “(i) to minimize market disruptions  
22                           that pose a threat to the economic well-  
23                           being of the United States; and

24                           “(ii) only after submitting a written  
25                           justification of the adjustment to the Com-

1                   mittee on Energy and Natural Resources  
2                   of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-  
3                   ural Resources of the House of Represent-  
4                   atives; or

5                   “(B) upward, if the Secretary determines  
6                   the adjustment necessary to increase participa-  
7                   tion in crude helium auctions or returns to the  
8                   taxpayer.

9                   “(6) AUCTION FORMAT.—The Secretary shall  
10                  conduct each auction using a method that maximizes  
11                  revenue to the Federal Government.

12                  “(7) PRICES.—The Secretary shall annually es-  
13                  tablish, as applicable, separate sale and minimum  
14                  auction prices under subsection (a)(1) and para-  
15                  graphs (1) and (2) using, if applicable and in the  
16                  following order of priority:

17                  “(A) The sale price of crude helium in auc-  
18                  tions held by the Secretary under paragraph  
19                  (2).

20                  “(B) Price recommendations and  
21                  disaggregated data from a qualified, inde-  
22                  pendent third party who has no conflict of in-  
23                  terest, who shall conduct a confidential survey  
24                  of qualifying domestic helium transactions.

1           “(C) The volume-weighted average price of  
2 all crude helium and pure helium purchased,  
3 sold, or processed by persons in all qualifying  
4 domestic helium transactions.

5           “(D) The volume-weighted average cost of  
6 converting gaseous crude helium into pure he-  
7 lium.

8           “(8) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

9           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
10 require all persons that are parties to a con-  
11 tract with the Secretary for the withdrawal, ac-  
12 ceptance, storage, transportation, delivery, or  
13 redelivery of crude helium to disclose, on a  
14 strictly confidential basis—

15           “(i) the volumes and associated prices  
16 in dollars per thousand cubic feet of all  
17 crude and pure helium purchased, sold, or  
18 processed by persons in qualifying domes-  
19 tic helium transactions;

20           “(ii) the volumes and associated costs  
21 in dollars per thousand cubic feet of con-  
22 verting crude helium into pure helium; and

23           “(iii) refinery capacity and future ca-  
24 pacity estimates.

1           “(B) CONDITION.—As a condition of sale  
2 or auction to a refiner under subsection (a)(1)  
3 and paragraphs (1) and (2), effective beginning  
4 90 days after the date of enactment of the He-  
5 lium Stewardship Act of 2013, the refiner shall  
6 make excess refining capacity of helium avail-  
7 able at commercially reasonable rates to—

8                   “(i) any person prevailing in auctions  
9 under paragraph (2); and

10                   “(ii) any person that has acquired  
11 crude helium from the Secretary from the  
12 Federal Helium Reserve by means other  
13 than an auction under paragraph (2) after  
14 the date of enactment of the Helium Stew-  
15 ardship Act of 2013, including nonallo-  
16 cated sales.

17           “(9) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary  
18 may use the information collected under this Act—

19                   “(A) to approximate crude helium prices;  
20 and

21                   “(B) to ensure the recovery of fair value  
22 for the taxpayers of the United States from  
23 sales of crude helium.

24           “(10) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—  
25 The Secretary shall adopt such administrative poli-

1       cies and procedures as the Secretary considers nec-  
2       essary and reasonable to ensure the confidentiality  
3       of information submitted pursuant to this Act.

4               “(11) FORWARD AUCTIONS.—Effective begin-  
5       ning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary may conduct  
6       a forward auction once each fiscal year of a quantity  
7       of helium that is equal to up to 10 percent of the  
8       volume of crude helium to be made available at auc-  
9       tion during the following fiscal year if the Secretary  
10      determines that the forward auction will—

11               “(A) not cause a disruption in the supply  
12      of helium from the Reserve;

13               “(B) represent a cost-effective action;

14               “(C) generate greater returns for tax-  
15      payers; and

16               “(D) increase the effectiveness of price dis-  
17      covery.

18               “(12) SALE SCHEDULE AND FREQUENCY.—For  
19      fiscal year 2015 the Secretary shall conduct only one  
20      auction, which shall precede, and one sale, which  
21      shall take place no later than August 1, 2014, with  
22      full and final payment for the sale being made no  
23      later than September 26, 2014. Consistent with the  
24      annual volumes established under paragraph (2), ef-  
25      fective beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary

1       may conduct auctions twice during each fiscal year  
2       if the Secretary determines that the auction fre-  
3       quency will—

4               “(A) not cause a disruption in the supply  
5       of helium from the Reserve;

6               “(B) represent a cost-effective action;

7               “(C) generate greater returns for tax-  
8       payers; and

9               “(D) increase the effectiveness of price dis-  
10      covery.

11      “(13) ONE-TIME SALE.—

12              “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
13      graph (4)(A), the Secretary shall hold a one-  
14      time sale of helium, no later than August 1,  
15      2014 from amounts available in fiscal year  
16      2016 pursuant to this section. Full and final  
17      payment for the sale must be made no later  
18      than 45 days after the date the sale takes  
19      place.

20              “(B) VOLUME SOLD.—The volume of he-  
21      lium sold under this paragraph—

22                      “(i) shall be at least 250 million cubic  
23      feet; and

24                      “(ii) shall be made available for sale  
25      consistent with paragraph (2)(B).

1       “(c) PHASE C: CONTINUED ACCESS FOR FEDERAL  
2 USERS.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer  
4 crude helium for sale to Federal users in such quan-  
5 tities, at such times, at such prices required to reim-  
6 burse the Secretary for the full costs of the sales,  
7 and under such terms and conditions as the Sec-  
8 retary determines necessary to carry out this sub-  
9 section.

10          “(2) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users  
11 may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline  
12 access under this subsection from persons who have  
13 entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an  
14 equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind  
15 price from the Secretary.

16          “(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection ap-  
17 plies beginning on the day after the date described  
18 in subsection (b)(4)(B).

19       “(d) PHASE D: DISPOSAL OF ASSETS.—

20           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 2 years  
21 after the date of commencement of Phase C de-  
22 scribed in subsection (c) and not later than Sep-  
23 tember 30, 2021, the Secretary shall designate as  
24 excess property and dispose of all facilities, equip-  
25 ment, and other real and personal property, and all



1 interests in the same, held by the United States in  
2 the Federal Helium System.

3 “(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—The disposal of the  
4 property described in paragraph (1) shall be in ac-  
5 cordance with subtitle I of title 40, United States  
6 Code.

7 “(3) PROCEEDS.—All proceeds accruing to the  
8 United States by reason of the sale or other disposal  
9 of the property described in paragraph (1) shall be  
10 treated as funds received under this Act for pur-  
11 poses of subsection (e).

12 “(4) COSTS.—All costs associated with the sale  
13 and disposal (including costs associated with termi-  
14 nation of personnel) and with the cessation of activi-  
15 ties under this subsection shall be paid from  
16 amounts available in the Helium Production Fund  
17 established under subsection (e).

18 “(e) HELIUM PRODUCTION FUND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received under  
20 this Act, including amounts from the sale or auction  
21 of crude helium, shall be credited to the Helium Pro-  
22 duction Fund, which shall be available without fiscal  
23 year limitation for purposes determined to be nec-  
24 essary and cost effective by the Secretary to carry  
25 out this Act (other than sections 16, 17, and 18),

1 including capital investments in upgrades and main-  
2 tenance at the Federal Helium System, including—

3 “(A) well head maintenance at the Cliff-  
4 side Field;

5 “(B) capital investments in maintenance  
6 and upgrades of facilities that pressurize the  
7 Cliffside Field;

8 “(C) capital investments in maintenance  
9 and upgrades of equipment related to the stor-  
10 age, withdrawal, enrichment, transportation,  
11 purification, and sale of crude helium from the  
12 Federal Helium Reserve;

13 “(D) entering into purchase, lease, or  
14 other agreements to drill new or uncap existing  
15 wells to maximize the recovery of crude helium  
16 from the Federal Helium System; and

17 “(E) any other scheduled or unscheduled  
18 maintenance of the Federal Helium System.

19 “(2) EXCESS FUNDS.—Amounts in the Helium  
20 Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary  
21 determines to be necessary to carry out paragraph  
22 (1) shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury  
23 and used to reduce the annual Federal budget def-  
24 icit.

1           “(3) RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.—Out of  
2 amounts paid to the general fund of the Treasury  
3 under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Treasury  
4 shall use \$51,000,000 to retire public debt.

5           “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6 date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of  
7 2013 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the  
8 Interior shall submit to the Committee on Energy  
9 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-  
10 mittee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-  
11 resentatives a report describing all expenditures by  
12 the Bureau of Land Management to carry out this  
13 Act.

14           “(f) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer  
15 for sale or auction during each fiscal year under sub-  
16 sections (a), (b), and (c) a quantity of crude helium that  
17 is the lesser of —

18           “(1) the quantity of crude helium offered for  
19 sale by the Secretary during fiscal year 2012; or

20           “(2) the maximum total production capacity of  
21 the Federal Helium System.”.

22 **SEC. 6. INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, AND**  
23 **STRATEGY.**

24           The Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 et seq.) is amend-  
25 ed—

1 (1) by repealing section 15 (50 U.S.C. 167m);

2 (2) by redesignating section 17 (50 U.S.C. 167

3 note) as section 20; and

4 (3) by inserting after section 14 (50 U.S.C.

5 167l) the following:

6 **“SEC. 15. INFORMATION.**

7 “(a) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Secretary, acting  
8 through the Bureau of Land Management, shall make  
9 available on the Internet information relating to the Fed-  
10 eral Helium System that includes—

11 “(1) continued publication of an open market  
12 and in-kind price;

13 “(2) aggregated projections of excess refining  
14 capacity;

15 “(3) ownership of helium held in the Federal  
16 Helium Reserve;

17 “(4) the volume of helium delivered to persons  
18 through the Federal Helium Pipeline;

19 “(5) pressure constraints of the Federal Helium  
20 Pipeline;

21 “(6) an estimate of the projected date when  
22 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude helium  
23 will remain in the Federal Helium Reserve and the  
24 final phase described in section 6(c) will begin;

1           “(7) the amount of the fees charged under sec-  
2           tion 5;

3           “(8) the scheduling of crude helium deliveries  
4           through the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

5           “(9) other factors that will increase trans-  
6           parency.

7           “(b) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the  
8           date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013,  
9           to provide the market with appropriate and timely infor-  
10          mation affecting the helium resource, the Director of the  
11          Bureau of Land Management shall establish a timely and  
12          public reporting process to provide data that affects the  
13          helium industry, including—

14                 “(1) annual maintenance schedules and quar-  
15                 terly updates, that shall include—

16                         “(A) the date and duration of planned  
17                         shutdowns of the Federal Helium Pipeline;

18                         “(B) the nature of work to be undertaken  
19                         on the Federal Helium System, whether rou-  
20                         tine, extended, or extraordinary;

21                         “(C) the anticipated impact of the work on  
22                         the helium supply;

23                         “(D) the efforts being made to minimize  
24                         any impact on the supply chain; and

1           “(E) any concerns regarding maintenance  
2           of the Federal Helium Pipeline, including the  
3           pressure of the pipeline or deviation from nor-  
4           mal operation of the pipeline;

5           “(2) for each unplanned outage, a description  
6           of—

7           “(A) the beginning of the outage;

8           “(B) the expected duration of the outage;

9           “(C) the nature of the problem;

10          “(D) the estimated impact on helium sup-  
11          ply;

12          “(E) a plan to correct problems, including  
13          an estimate of the potential timeframe for cor-  
14          rection and the likelihood of plan success within  
15          the timeframe;

16          “(F) efforts to minimize negative impacts  
17          on the helium supply chain; and

18          “(G) updates on repair status and the an-  
19          ticipated online date;

20          “(3) monthly summaries of meetings and com-  
21          munications between the Bureau of Land Manage-  
22          ment and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partner-  
23          ship, including a list of participants and an indica-  
24          tion of any actions taken as a result of the meetings  
25          or communications; and

1           “(4) current predictions of the lifespan of the  
2           Federal Helium System, including how much longer  
3           the crude helium supply will be available based on  
4           current and forecasted demand and the projected  
5           maximum production capacity of the Federal Helium  
6           System for the following fiscal year.

7   **“SEC. 16. HELIUM GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**

8           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
9           date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013,  
10          the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United  
11          States Geological Survey, shall—

12                  “(1) in coordination with appropriate heads of  
13                  State geological surveys—

14                          “(A) complete a national helium gas as-  
15                          sessment that identifies and quantifies the  
16                          quantity of helium, including the isotope he-  
17                          lium-3, in each reservoir, including assessments  
18                          of the constituent gases found in each helium  
19                          resource, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and  
20                          natural gas; and

21                          “(B) make available the modern seismic  
22                          and geophysical log data for characterization of  
23                          the Bush Dome Reservoir;

24                  “(2) in coordination with appropriate inter-  
25          national agencies and the global geology community,

1 complete a global helium gas assessment that identi-  
2 fies and quantifies the quantity of the helium, in-  
3 cluding the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir;

4 “(3) in coordination with the Secretary of En-  
5 ergy, acting through the Administrator of the En-  
6 ergy Information Administration, complete—

7 “(A) an assessment of trends in global de-  
8 mand for helium, including the isotope helium-  
9 3;

10 “(B) a 10-year forecast of domestic de-  
11 mand for helium across all sectors, including  
12 scientific and medical research, commercial,  
13 manufacturing, space technologies, cryogenics,  
14 and national defense; and

15 “(C) an inventory of medical, scientific, in-  
16 dustrial, commercial, and other uses of helium  
17 in the United States, including Federal uses,  
18 that identifies the nature of the helium use, the  
19 amounts required, the technical and commercial  
20 viability of helium recapture and recycling in  
21 that use, and the availability of material sub-  
22 stitutes wherever possible; and

23 “(4) submit to the Committee on Energy and  
24 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee  
25 on Natural Resources of the House of Representa-





1 other constituent gases that lower the Btu content  
2 of natural gas.

3 “(2) HELIUM SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY.—The  
4 Secretary of Energy shall support a research pro-  
5 gram to develop technologies for separating, gath-  
6 ering, and processing helium in low concentrations  
7 that occur naturally in geological reservoirs or for-  
8 mations, including—

9 “(A) low-Btu gas production streams; and

10 “(B) technologies that minimize the atmos-  
11 pheric venting of helium gas during natural gas  
12 production.

13 “(3) INDUSTRIAL HELIUM PROGRAM.—The Sec-  
14 retary of Energy, working through the Advanced  
15 Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy,  
16 shall carry out a research program—

17 “(A) to develop low-cost technologies and  
18 technology systems for recycling, reprocessing,  
19 and reusing helium for all medical, scientific,  
20 industrial, commercial, aerospace, and other  
21 uses of helium in the United States, including  
22 Federal uses; and

23 “(B) to develop industrial gathering tech-  
24 nologies to capture helium from other chemical  
25 processing, including ammonia processing.

1       “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$3,000,000.

4       **“SEC. 18. HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.**

5       “(a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary  
6 shall cooperate with the Secretary of Energy, or a des-  
7 ignee, on any assessment or research relating to the ex-  
8 traction and refining of the isotope helium-3 from crude  
9 helium and other potential sources, including—

10               “(1) gas analysis; and

11               “(2) infrastructure studies.

12       “(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary, in con-  
13 sultation with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee, may  
14 carry out a study to assess the feasibility of—

15               “(1) establishing a facility to separate the iso-  
16 tope helium-3 from crude helium; and

17               “(2) exploring other potential sources of the  
18 isotope helium-3.

19       “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
20 of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the  
21 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and  
22 Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on  
23 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a re-  
24 port that contains a description of the results of the as-  
25 sessments conducted under this section.



1           “(4) an assessment of the effects of increases in  
2           the price of refined helium and methods and policies  
3           for mitigating any determined effects; and

4           “(5) a description of a process for prioritization  
5           of uses that accounts for diminished availability of  
6           helium supplies that may occur over time.”.

7   **SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

8           (a) Section 4 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167b)  
9           is amended by striking “section 6(f)” each place it appears  
10          in subsections (c)(3), (c)(4), and (d)(2) and inserting  
11          “section 6(e)”.

12          (b) Section 8 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167f)  
13          is repealed.

14   **SEC. 8. EXISTING AGREEMENTS.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments  
16          made by this Act shall not affect or diminish the rights  
17          and obligations of the Secretary of the Interior and private  
18          parties under agreements in existence on the date of en-  
19          actment of this Act, except to the extent that the agree-  
20          ments are renewed or extended after that date.

21          (b) DELIVERY.—No agreement described in sub-  
22          section (a) shall affect or diminish the right of any party  
23          that purchases helium after the date of enactment of this  
24          Act in accordance with section 6 of the Helium Act (50  
25          U.S.C. 167d) (as amended by section 5) to receive delivery

1 of the helium in accordance with section 5(e)(2) of the  
2 Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167c(e)(2)) (as amended by sec-  
3 tion 4).

4 **SEC. 9. REGULATIONS.**

5 The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such  
6 regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act and the  
7 amendments made by this Act, including regulations nec-  
8 essary to prevent unfair acts and practices.

9 **SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.**

10 (a) SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF  
11 DETERMINATION PROGRAM.—

12 (1) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUN-  
13 TIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

14 (A) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Section  
15 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-  
16 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
17 7111) is amended by striking “2012” each  
18 place it appears and inserting “2013”.

19 (B) ELECTIONS.—Section 102(b) of the  
20 Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-De-  
21 termination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(b)) is  
22 amended—

23 (i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking  
24 “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

1 (ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
2 “2012” each place it appears and inserting  
3 “2013”.

4 (C) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELI-  
5 GIBLE COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Se-  
6 cure Rural Schools and Community Self-Deter-  
7 mination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is  
8 amended by striking “and 2012” and inserting  
9 “through 2013”.

10 (2) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO CON-  
11 DUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Title  
12 II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-  
13 Determination Act of 2000 is amended—

14 (A) in section 203(a)(1) (16 U.S.C.  
15 7123(a)(1)), by striking “2012” and inserting  
16 “2013”;

17 (B) in section 204(e)(3)(B)(iii) (16 U.S.C.  
18 7124(e)(3)(B)(iii)), by striking “2012” and in-  
19 serting “2013”;

20 (C) in section 205(a)(4) (16 U.S.C.  
21 7125(a)(4)), by striking “2011” each place it  
22 appears and inserting “2012”;

23 (D) in section 207(a) (16 U.S.C. 7127(a)),  
24 by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

25 (E) in section 208 (16 U.S.C. 7128)—

1 (i) in subsection (a), by striking  
2 “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

3 (ii) in subsection (b), by striking  
4 “2013” and inserting “2014”.

5 (3) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO RESERVE  
6 AND USE COUNTY FUNDS.—Section 304 of the Se-  
7 cure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determina-  
8 tion Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

9 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “2012”  
10 and inserting “2013” ; and

11 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “2013”  
12 and inserting “2014”.

13 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
14 Section 402 of the Secure Rural Schools and Com-  
15 munity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C.  
16 7152) is amended by striking “2012” and inserting  
17 “2013”.

18 (b) ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION.—Section 349  
19 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907) is  
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(i) FEDERALLY DRILLED WELLS.—Out of any  
22 amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,  
23 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, \$36,000,000 for fiscal  
24 year 2015, and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 shall be  
25 made available to the Secretary, without further appro-



1 priation and to remain available until expended, to reme-  
2 diate, reclaim, and close abandoned oil and gas wells on  
3 current or former National Petroleum Reserve land.”.

4 (c) NATIONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—  
5 Section 814(g) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands  
6 Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 1f) is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Out of any amounts  
9 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,  
10 \$20,000,000 shall be made available to the Sec-  
11 retary of the Interior for fiscal year 2018, and  
12 \$30,000,000 shall be made available to the Sec-  
13 retary of the Interior for fiscal year 2019, without  
14 further appropriation and to remain available until  
15 expended, to pay the Federal funding share of chal-  
16 lenge cost-share agreements for deferred mainte-  
17 nance projects and to correct deficiencies in National  
18 Park Service infrastructure.

19 “(5) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Not less  
20 than 50 percent of the total cost of project for funds  
21 made available under paragraph (4) to pay the Fed-  
22 eral funding share shall be derived from non-Federal  
23 sources, including in-kind contribution of goods and  
24 services fairly valued.”.

1 (d) ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND.—Sec-  
2 tion 411(h) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclama-  
3 tion Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1240a(h)) is amended by add-  
4 ing at the end the following:

5 “(6) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—

6 “(A) WAIVER OF LIMITATION.—Notwith-  
7 standing paragraph (5), the limitation on the  
8 total annual payments to a certified State or  
9 Indian tribe under this subsection shall not  
10 apply for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

11 “(B) LIMITATION ON WAIVER.—Notwith-  
12 standing subparagraph (A), the total annual  
13 payment to a certified State or Indian tribe  
14 under this subsection for fiscal year 2014 shall  
15 not be more than \$28,000,000 and for fiscal  
16 year 2015 shall not be more than \$75,000,000.

17 “(C) INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS.—If the  
18 total annual payment to a certified State or In-  
19 dian tribe under paragraphs (1) and (2) is lim-  
20 ited by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall—

21 “(i) give priority to making payments  
22 under paragraph (2); and

23 “(ii) use any remaining funds to make  
24 payments under paragraph (1).”.

1           (e) SODA ASH ROYALTIES.—Notwithstanding section  
2 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262) and the  
3 terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the  
4 quantity of gross value of the output of sodium compounds  
5 and related products at the point of shipment to market  
6 from Federal land in the 2-year period beginning on the  
7 date of enactment of this Act shall be 4 percent.

8           (f) AUTHORIZATION OFFSET.—Section 207(c) of the  
9 Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42  
10 U.S.C. 17022(c)) is amended by inserting before the pe-  
11 riod at the end the following: “, except that the amount  
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not  
13 appropriated as of the date of enactment of the Helium  
14 Stewardship Act of 2013 shall be reduced by \$6,000,000”.