

Herrell #8

**Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 2021
Offered by Ms. Herrell**

Strike Section 28 and insert the following—

“SEC. 28. PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.

“Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act ([30 U.S.C. 226\(p\)](#)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“ ‘(4) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTION ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.— Pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (2), notwithstanding the existence of any pending civil actions which do not directly affect or involve the application or related lease, the Secretary shall process an application for a permit to drill under a valid existing lease, unless a United States Federal court has determined that the lease was not issued in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.](#)).’ ”