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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5616

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Graves of LA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bringing Reliable Investment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production Act of 5 6 2023” or the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2023”.

7 **SEC. 2. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (B) offers the same lease form, lease
9 terms, economic conditions, and stipulations as
10 contained in the final notice of sale entitled
11 “Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil
12 and Gas Lease Sale 257” (86 Fed. Reg. 54728
13 (October 4, 2021)); and

14 (C) that, if any acceptable bids have been
15 received for any tract offered in the lease sale,
16 results in the issuance of leases within 90 days
17 of the sale to the highest bids on the tracts of-
18 fered, subject to the Bureau of Ocean Energy
19 Management “Summary of Procedures for De-
20 termining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and
21 Gas Lease Sales Effective March 2016, with
22 Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 241 and Eastern
23 Gulf of Mexico Sale 226”.

1 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any other re-
2 quirements under section 18 of the Outer Continental
3 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) that would delay final
4 approval of an offshore lease sale under subsection (c).

5 (c) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 18 of
6 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344),
7 the Secretary shall—

8 (1) conduct not fewer than 4 offshore lease
9 sales during the 2-year period beginning on the date
10 of enactment of this Act; and

11 (2) ensure that the 2017–2022 Outer Conti-
12 nental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final
13 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and
14 Record of Decision shall apply to lease sales con-
15 ducted under this subsection and shall be sufficient
16 for purposes of complying with the National Envi-
17 ronmental Policy Act for offshore lease sales con-
18 ducted under this subsection to the extent it does
19 not conflict with this Act.

20 (d) TIMING.—In conducting the offshore lease sales
21 required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall conduct
22 an offshore lease sale not later than—

23 (1) March 31, 2024;
24 (2) August 31, 2024;
25 (3) March 31, 2025; and

1 (4) August 31, 2025.

2 (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—

18 (f) EFFECT OF LITIGATION.—

22 (A) affect the validity of any lease issued
23 under such an offshore lease sale; and

24 (B) except as provided in paragraph
25 (3)(B) cause a delay in the timelines for the

1 consideration of any exploration plan, develop-
2 ment plan, development operations coordination
3 document, applications for permit to drill, or
4 other application for a Federal agency author-
5 ization or approval for activities on a lease
6 issued under such an offshore lease sale.

7 (2) REMAND; PROCESSING OF APPROVALS AND
8 APPLICATIONS.—If, in a civil action described in
9 paragraph (1), a court finds that the offshore lease
10 sale was not carried out in compliance with Federal
11 law—

12 (A) the court shall not—
13 (i) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the off-
14 shore lease sale; or
15 (ii) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the
16 leases issued pursuant to the offshore lease
17 sale; or
18 (iii) enjoin the Secretary from issuing
19 leases to the highest bidders in the chal-
20 lenged offshore lease sale;

21 (B) the court shall remand the matter to
22 the Secretary and require the Secretary to cor-
23 rect the noncompliance; and

24 (C) the Secretary shall continue to process
25 all exploration plans, development plans, devel-

1 opment operations coordination documents, ap-
2 plications for a permit to drill, and other appli-
3 cations for a Federal agency authorization or
4 other approval for activities requested under
5 any lease issued under the challenged offshore
6 lease sale in accordance with the Outer Conti-
7 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et
8 seq.).

9 (3) NOTICE.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days
11 after the date on which a civil action described
12 in paragraph (1) is served on the United
13 States, the Secretary shall notify the holder of
14 any lease issued, or apparent high bidder if the
15 lease has not yet been issued, under the off-
16 shore lease sale that is the subject of the civil
17 action of the filing of the civil action.

18 (B) TIMELINE.—Not later than 90 days
19 after the date of receipt of a notice under sub-
20 paragraph (A), the holder of the lease may file
21 with the Secretary, and the Secretary may ap-
22 prove, a request to pause the timeline with re-
23 spect to the term of the lease during any period
24 in which the civil action is pending.