

2022 H.R. 5376

Inflation Reduction Act, Title V, Subtitle B, Section 50251 strips 2020 Presidential Executive Order protection and threatens the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) with offshore wind development; and other energy development related activities.

PART 5—OFFSHORE WIND

SEC. 50251. LEASING ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.

(a) LEASING AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may grant leases, easements, and rights-of-way pursuant to section 8(p)(1)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ([43 U.S.C. 1337\(p\)\(1\)\(C\)](#)) in an area withdrawn by—

(1) the Presidential memorandum entitled “Memorandum on the Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition” and dated September 8, 2020; or

9/26/22, 10:58 AM

Text - H.R.5376 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

(2) the Presidential memorandum entitled “Presidential Determination on the Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition” and dated September 25, 2020.

Companion Bills HR8980 and S4943, *Preserving the Gulf Test Range to Ensure Military Readiness Act*, re-establishes moratorium protection for the EGTTR from energy development in the Eastern Gulf.

Example Letter

Dear

[*company name*] is deeply concerned about the national security implications of allowing offshore energy leasing and development east of the Military Mission Line (MML) in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. In 2006, Congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) which prohibited oil and gas exploration and development, among other places, east of the MML. In 2020, then President Trump extended the protections for the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) through June 2032 by withdrawing the submerged lands of the test range from consideration for energy leasing or development. However, it has recently come to our attention that the Inflation Reduction Act (specifically, Title V, Subtitle B, Section 50251) strips those crucial protections by allowing for offshore wind development.

Energy infrastructure development in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico would encroach upon and jeopardize the effectiveness of the EGTTR, which is crucial to our military readiness and national defense. According to the Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico report, required by the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act:

The eastern Gulf of Mexico is an irreplaceable national asset... the unique capabilities present in the region have been developed over decades through the investment of billions of taxpayer dollars and countless hours of effort by federal, state, and private organizations and local citizens.

Sir, as you well know, we have now entered a technological era demanding more range space for testing next generation military weapons and training our warfighters. Allowing

exploration and development of energy infrastructure inside the EGTTTR threatens our national security and demands immediate action to protect and sustain this important asset. In light of this, we respectfully request a moratorium on energy leasing and development east of the MML in the Gulf of Mexico.

Please support the solution offered by Congress through the Preserving the Gulf Test Range to Ensure Military Readiness Act. Ensuring our nation's military readiness and preserving the unique capabilities afforded by the EGTTTR is critical.

Suggested Congressional Members

The Honorable Frank Kendall
Secretary
United States Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515