

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6087

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2018

Ms. CHENEY (for herself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. GOSAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, 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 “Removing Barriers to
5 Energy Independence Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST PROCESS REFORM.**

7 Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
8 226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(q) PROTEST FILING FEE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Before processing any pro-
3 test filed under this section, the Secretary shall col-
4 lect a filing fee from the protestor to recover the
5 cost for processing documents filed for each adminis-
6 trative protest.

7 “(2) AMOUNT.—The filing fee shall be cal-
8 culated as follows:

9 “(A) For each protest filed in a submission
10 not exceeding 10 pages in length, the base filing
11 fee shall be \$150.

12 “(B) For each submission exceeding 10
13 pages in length, an addition to the base filling
14 fee, an assessment of \$5 per page in excess of
15 10 pages shall apply.

16 “(C) For protests that include more than
17 one oil and gas lease parcel, right-of-way, or ap-
18 plication for permit to drill in a submission, an
19 additional assessment of \$10 per additional
20 lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for
21 permit to drill shall apply.

22 “(3) ADJUSTMENT.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January
24 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
25 shall adjust the filing fees established in this

1 subsection to whole dollar amounts to reflect
2 changes in the Producer Price Index, as pub-
3 lished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for
4 the previous 12 months.

5 “(B) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED FILING
6 FEES.—At least 30 days before the filling fees
7 as adjusted under this paragraph take effect,
8 the Secretary of the Interior shall publish noti-
9 fication of the adjustment of such fees in the
10 Federal Register.”.

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