

HR 6860

Oil and Gas Lease Reform Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Sep 10, 2008

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. (Sep 15, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6860>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]

Party: Republican • State: TN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Drake, Thelma D. [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Sep 15, 2008
Rep. Myrick, Sue Wilkins [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Sep 15, 2008
Rep. Bachmann, Michele [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Broun, Paul C. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Brown, Henry E., Jr. [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Doolittle, John T. [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Fallin, Mary [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Gingrey, Phil [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Goode, Virgil H., Jr. [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Herger, Wally [R-CA-2]	R · CA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn N. [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Price, Tom [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Schmidt, Jean [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Sep 17, 2008
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Sep 22, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 15, 2008
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 15, 2008
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 10, 2008

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

### Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Sep 10, 2008)

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Oil and Gas Lease Reform Act of 2008 - Declares that no state environmental or pollution control law regulating the emission of pollutants or protecting human health or the environment shall apply to any activity under a lease for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas on federal lands (including submerged lands), including any such state law expressly applicable to such activity under any other federal law.

Amends the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) to define "unnecessary or undue degradation," including: (1) surface or submerged disturbance greater than what would normally result when an activity is being accomplished by a prudent operator in usual, customary, and proficient operations of similar character and taking into considerations the effect of operations on other resources and land uses, including those resources and uses outside the area of operations; (2) failure to initiate and complete reasonable mitigation measures or to comply with applicable federal environmental statutes and regulations thereunder; or (3) failure to abide by the terms and conditions of an approved plan of operations and operations described in a complete notice.

Amends the FLPMA, the Mineral Leasing Act, and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from suspending any lease for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas, unless: (1) operations under the lease will present an imminent threat or harm to public safety or will significantly damage the public lands outside lease stipulations; or (2) the suspension is requested by the lessee. Prescribes requirements for review and termination of a suspension.

Limits the requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) for an environmental impact statement for a lease for oil or natural gas exploration, development, or production on federal lands to: (1) sale of the lease by the lessee; and (2) a single statement and a single review, upon lessee request, with respect to all plans and permits required for exploration, development, production, and construction of infrastructure to be carried out under the lease.

Requires issuance of an exploration, development, or production permit if the Secretary determines that the comprehensive plan for the project complies with NEPA requirements.

Prescribes appeals process, enforcement, and specified related requirements.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 15, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.
- **Sep 15, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
- **Sep 10, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 10, 2008:** Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.