

S 2374

Helium Stewardship Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Apr 26, 2012

Current Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-540.

Latest Action: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-540. (May 10, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/2374>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Apr 26, 2012
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Apr 26, 2012
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 26, 2012
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 8, 2012
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		May 16, 2012
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 21, 2012
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 4, 2012
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 4, 2012
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jun 11, 2012
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 12, 2012
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Jun 13, 2012
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 19, 2012
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 26, 2012
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jul 9, 2012
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 10, 2012
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 12, 2012
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 16, 2012
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jul 18, 2012
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		Jul 25, 2012
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Aug 2, 2012
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 10, 2012
Sen. Hagan, Kay R. [D-NC]	D · NC		Sep 20, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 10, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Apr 26, 2012)

Helium Stewardship Act of 2012 - Amends the Helium Act to name all U.S.-owned helium reserves the Federal Helium Reserve, including: (1) the Cliffside Field helium storage reservoir; (2) the federally owned helium pipeline system; and (3) all associated infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary of the Interior for helium storage, transportation, withdrawal, purification, or management.

Revises the authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to offer crude helium for sale for federal, medical, scientific, and commercial uses, dividing such sales into three phases the second of which is to maximize total recovery of helium from the Reserve.

Authorizes extramural holders of federal research grants, as well as federal agencies, to purchase refined helium for federal uses, including medical and scientific uses, from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

Replaces the current formula for determining the price of helium with guidelines referring to current market crude helium prices.

Directs the Secretary, acting through the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, to undertake a national helium gas assessment.

Directs the Secretary of Energy (DOE) to support research, development, commercial application, and conservation programs to: (1) expand domestic production of low-Btu gas and helium resources, (2) separate and capture helium from natural gas streams at the wellhead, and (3) reduce venting helium and helium-bearing low-Btu gas during natural gas operations.

Instructs the Secretary of Energy to support or carry out directly research programs to develop: (1) advanced membrane technology, (2) helium separation technology, and (3) low-cost technologies and technology systems for recycling, reprocessing, and reusing helium (industrial helium program).

Directs the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the Secretary of Energy on any assessment or research regarding extraction and refinement of the isotope helium-3 from crude helium at the Reserve or along the helium pipeline system.

Amends the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 to extend from 5 to 7 years the reduced royalty rate on soda ash produced from federal land.

Actions Timeline

- **May 10, 2012:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 112-540.
- **Apr 26, 2012:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 26, 2012:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2826)
- **Apr 26, 2012:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2826-2828)