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Keep It in the Ground Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Mar 28, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Mar 28, 2017)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/750

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 27, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 28, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2242	Related bill	May 11, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Keep It in the Ground Act of 2017

This bill amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) from issuing, renewing, reinstating, or extending any nonproducing lease, or issuing any authorization for the exploration or production of oil, natural gas, or any other fossil fuel in the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or any other area of the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM shall also cancel within 60 days any lease issued in the Beaufort Sea, Cook Inlet, or Chukchi Sea (three of the five bodies of water that encompass the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must not issue, renew, reinstate, or extend any nonproducing lease for the exploration or production of any onshore fossil fuels, including coal, oil, tar sands, oil shale, and gas, on land subject to the Mineral Leasing Act.

The bill provides for exceptions if there is an imminent national security threat that would be significantly reduced by granting an exception.

In addition, BOEM and the BLM may allow a nonproducing lease to be renewed or extended if the lease contract was signed before this bill, and giving effect to any provision of this bill is likely to lead to a material breach of contract.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 28, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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