

S 1115

Keep It in the Ground Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Energy

Introduced: Apr 14, 2021

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. (Apr 14, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1115>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 14, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 20, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 2, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 14, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Energy

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2519	Identical bill	Jun 8, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Keep It in the Ground Act of 2021

This bill eliminates new fossil fuel production projects on federal public land and waters.

Specifically, it prohibits 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 fossil fuel on the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM must also cancel 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).

Further, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may not issue, renew, reinstate, or extend any nonproducing lease for the exploration or production of any onshore fossil fuels 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 (1) the lease contract was signed before enactment of this bill, and (2) it is determined that giving effect to any provision of this bill is likely to lead to a judicial ruling that there was a material breach of the nonproducing lease contract.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 14, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 14, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com