

## 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	<b>Jun 8, 2021:</b> 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**

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