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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To allow the conduct of offshore energy exploration, development, and production operations under drilling permits previously issued by the Minerals Management Service, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To allow the conduct of offshore energy exploration, development, and production operations under drilling permits previously issued by the Minerals Management Service, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Exploration Com-  
5 ing from Underwater Reserves of Energy Act” or the  
6 “SECURE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The United States imported an estimated  
4 61 percent of its oil in 2010, sending approximately  
5 \$337 billion, or \$641,172 per minute, to foreign  
6 countries.

7 (2) Approximately 1.6 billion barrels of petro-  
8 leum imported into the United States last year came  
9 from members of the Organization of the Petroleum  
10 Exporting Countries, like Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait,  
11 Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emir-  
12 ates.

13 (3) More than ten percent of the petroleum im-  
14 ported into the United States came from Venezuela.

15 (4) According to data from the Energy Infor-  
16 mation Administration, by 2035 worldwide demand  
17 for oil and natural gas is expected to increase by al-  
18 most 30 and 38 percent respectively.

19 (5) Domestic oil and natural gas resources off  
20 United States shores in undiscovered fields total 86  
21 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of  
22 natural gas, enough oil to replace imports from  
23 Saudi Arabia and Venezuela for the next 80 years  
24 and enough clean natural gas to power America's  
25 industry for the next 63 years.

1           (6) Oil and natural gas production off United  
2 States' shores is projected to decrease in 2011 by 13  
3 percent from 2010 levels in part because of regu-  
4 latory delays implemented by the Department of the  
5 Interior and increased uncertainty about future in-  
6 vestment in drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.

7           (7) Regular-grade retail gasoline prices are ex-  
8 pected to continue rising through 2011 to as much  
9 as \$5.00 per gallon by 2012, according to some esti-  
10 mates.

11           (8) The Department of the Interior has pro-  
12 scribed reforms to ensure the safe development of oil  
13 and natural gas production off United States shores,  
14 including implementing new rules that would  
15 strengthen safety requirements for offshore drilling  
16 operations.

17           (9) The resumption of oil and natural gas drill-  
18 ing operations off United States shores is imperative  
19 to the United States' economic recovery and energy  
20 security.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT OFFSHORE DRILLING**  
22 **UNDER APPROVED PERMITS.**

23           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), each  
24 holder of a permit issued pursuant to an application for  
25 a permit to drill, including an application for a permit to

1 sidetrack, that was approved by the Minerals Management  
2 Service before May 3, 2010, for purposes of Outer Conti-  
3 nental Shelf energy exploration or development and pro-  
4 duction may conduct all operations authorized under the  
5 terms of the permit (including all exploration plans, devel-  
6 opment operations coordination documents, and develop-  
7 ment production plans submitted for the permit)—

8 (1) without further review by the Bureau of  
9 Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and En-  
10 forcement; and

11 (2) without further review or delay under the  
12 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
13 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) or any other similar statutes  
14 such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
15 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Marine Mammal Protec-  
16 tion Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

17 (b) OPERATIONS.—Operations conducted under sub-  
18 section (a) shall be carried out in accordance with the safe-  
19 ty protocols contained in part 250 of title 30, Code of Fed-  
20 eral Regulations.

21 (c) REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE.—This section does not  
22 prohibit review of compliance with the terms of such a per-  
23 mit.