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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To ensure Federal oil and natural gas lease sales occur, eliminate redundant leasing bureaucracy, and provide leasing certainty.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

To ensure Federal oil and natural gas lease sales occur, eliminate redundant leasing bureaucracy, and provide leasing certainty.

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 “Providing Leasing Cer-  
5 tainty for American Energy Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE**  
2 **LEASE SALES.**

3 In conducting lease sales as required by section 226A  
4 of the Mineral Leasing Act, each year the Secretary of  
5 the Interior shall perform the following:

6 (1) The Secretary shall offer for sale no less  
7 than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage  
8 not previously made available for lease. Acreage of-  
9 fered for lease pursuant to this paragraph shall not  
10 be subject to protest and shall be eligible for cat-  
11 egorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy  
12 Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15492), except that  
13 it shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary  
14 circumstances.

15 (2) In administering this section, the Secretary  
16 shall only consider leasing of Federal lands that are  
17 available for leasing at the time the lease sale oc-  
18 curs.

19 **SEC. 3. LEASING CERTAINTY.**

20 Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
21 226(a)) is amended by inserting “(1)” before “All lands”,  
22 and by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall not withdraw any cov-  
24 ered energy project issued under this Act without finding  
25 a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

1           “(B) The Secretary shall not infringe upon lease  
2 rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely  
3 delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic  
4 permits, and rights of way for activities under such a  
5 lease.

6           “(C) No later than 18 months after an area is des-  
7 ignated as open under the current land use plan the Sec-  
8 retary shall make available nominated areas for lease  
9 under the criteria in section 2.

10          “(D) Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary  
11 shall issue all leases sold 60 days after the last payment  
12 is made.

13          “(E) The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any  
14 lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and  
15 a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the  
16 parcel.

17          “(F) Not later than 60 days after a lease sale held  
18 under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease  
19 protests filed following a lease sale. If after 60 days any  
20 protest is left unsettled, said protest is automatically de-  
21 nied and appeal rights of the protestor begin.

22          “(G) No additional lease stipulations may be added  
23 after the parcel is sold without consultation and agree-  
24 ment of the lessee, unless the Secretary deems such stipu-

1 lations as emergency actions to conserve the resources of  
2 the United States.”.

3 **SEC. 4. LEASING CONSISTENCY.**

4 Federal land managers must follow existing resource  
5 management plans and continue to actively lease in areas  
6 designated as open when resource management plans are  
7 being amended or revised, until such time as a new record  
8 of decision is signed.

9 **SEC. 5. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.**

10 Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memo-  
11 randum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.