

## Union Calendar No. 439

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1467

[Report No. 105-770]

To provide for the continuance of oil and gas operations pursuant to certain existing leases in the Wayne National Forest.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 1998

Mr. NEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

OCTOBER 5, 1998

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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## A BILL

To provide for the continuance of oil and gas operations pursuant to certain existing leases in the Wayne National Forest.

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

1 **SECTION 1. ELECTION TO CONTINUE OIL AND GAS OPER-**  
2 **ATIONS UNDER CERTAIN EXISTING LEASES.**

3 In the case of the Wayne National Forest, an election  
4 under section 17(b)(3) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30  
5 U.S.C. 226(b)(3)), including an election made before the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, shall be deemed to be an  
7 election to continue operations pursuant to the existing  
8 lease instead of an election to continue the lease as a non-  
9 competitive lease under section 17(e)(1) of that Act, and  
10 in the case of any such election, the provisions of subpara-  
11 graphs (C) and (D) of such section 17(b)(3) shall not  
12 apply. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any lands  
13 subject to an election made by a leaseholder under such  
14 section 17(b)(3) before the date of enactment of this Act  
15 if the lease holder notifies the Secretary of the Interior  
16 (within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act)  
17 that the leaseholder intends such election to remain an  
18 election to continue the lease as a noncompetitive lease  
19 under section 17(e)(1) of that Act.

20 **SECTION 1. OIL AND GAS WELLS IN WAYNE NATIONAL**  
21 **FOREST, OHIO.**

22 (a) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary of the Interior may*  
23 *enter into noncompetitive oil and gas production and rec-*  
24 *lamation contracts in accordance with this section with op-*  
25 *erators of wells in the Wayne National Forest in the State*  
26 *of Ohio who meet the criteria of section 17(b)(3)(A) of the*

1 *Act of February 25, 1920 (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(3)(A))* pursu-  
2 *ant to private land mineral leases which were in effect on*  
3 *and after the date of the enactment of this section, subject*  
4 *to the same laws and regulations that applied to those pri-*  
5 *vate land mineral leases.*

6 (b) *ADDITIONAL DRILLING.*—*No contract under this*  
7 *section may authorize deeper completions or additional*  
8 *drilling.*

9 (c) *BONDING.*—

10 (1) *WAIVER OF FEDERAL BONDING.*—*Each con-*  
11 *tract under this section shall require the contractor to*  
12 *provide a Federal oil and gas bond to ensure complete*  
13 *and timely reclamation of the former lease tract in*  
14 *accordance with the regulations of the Bureau of*  
15 *Land Management and the Forest Service, unless the*  
16 *Secretary of the Interior accepts in lieu thereof assur-*  
17 *ances from the Ohio Department of Natural Re-*  
18 *sources, Division of Oil and Gas, that—*

19 (A) *the contractor has duly satisfied the*  
20 *bonding requirements of the State of Ohio; and*  
21 *following inspection of operator performance, the*  
22 *Ohio Department of Natural Resources is not op-*  
23 *posed to such waiver of Federal bonding require-*  
24 *ments;*

1           (B) the United States of America is entitled  
2           to apply for and receive funding under the pro-  
3           vision of section 1509.071 of the Ohio Revised  
4           Code so as to properly plug and restore oil and  
5           gas sites and lease tracts; and

6           (C) during the 2 years prior to the date on  
7           which the contract is entered into no less than 20  
8           percent of Ohio State severance tax revenues has  
9           been allocated to the State of Ohio Orphan Well  
10          Fund.

11          (2) CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH 20 PERCENT  
12          REQUIREMENT.—In entering into any contract under  
13          this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall reserve  
14          the right to require the contractor to comply with all  
15          Federal oil and gas bonding requirements applicable  
16          to Federal oil and gas leases under the regulations of  
17          the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest  
18          Service whenever the Secretary finds that less than 20  
19          percent of Ohio State severance tax revenues has been  
20          allocated to the State of Ohio Orphan Well Fund.



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