

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3859

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to adjust minimum bids and annual rentals for oil and gas and tar sands leases to reflect inflation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2014

Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. HOLT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to adjust minimum bids and annual rentals for oil and gas and tar sands leases to reflect inflation, 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 “Oil and Gas Leasing
5 Inflation Adjustment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENT OF MINIMUM BIDS AND ANNUAL**
2 **RENTALS FOR OIL AND GAS AND TAR SANDS**
3 **LEASES TO REFLECT INFLATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing
5 Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “\$2 per
7 acre” and inserting “\$4 per acre”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking “\$2 per
9 acre” and inserting “\$5 per acre”;

10 (3) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) by striking “\$1.50 per acre” and in-
12 serting “\$3 per acre”; and

13 (B) by striking “\$2 per acre” and insert-
14 ing “\$4 per acre”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(q) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(A) by regulation, at least once every 4
19 years, adjust each of the dollar amounts that
20 applies under subsections (b)(1)(B), (b)(2)(C),
21 and (d) by the cost-of-living adjustment; and

22 “(B) publish each such regulation in the
23 Federal Register.

24 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—The
2 term ‘cost-of-living adjustment’ means the per-
3 centage (if any) for a dollar amount by which—

4 “(i) the Consumer Price Index for the
5 month of June of the calendar year pre-
6 ceding the adjustment, exceeds

7 “(ii) the Consumer Price Index for
8 the month of June of the calendar year in
9 which the dollar amount was last set or ad-
10 justed pursuant to law.

11 “(B) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.—The term
12 ‘Consumer Price Index’ means the Consumer
13 Price Index for all-urban consumers published
14 by the Department of Labor.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
16 17(b)(1)(B) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.
17 226(b)(1)(B)) is amended beginning in the first sentence
18 by striking “for a period” and all that follows through
19 “Thereafter, the” and inserting “. The”.

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