

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1918

To permit United States companies to participate in the exploration for and the extraction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2009

Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Kansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To permit United States companies to participate in the exploration for and the extraction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States, 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 “Western Hemisphere
5 Energy Security Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to permit United States
3 companies to participate in the exploration for and the ex-
4 traction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a
5 foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contig-
6 uous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPORTS IN-**
8 **VOLVING HYDROCARBON RESOURCES BY**
9 **UNITED STATES COMPANIES.**

10 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law (including a regulation), United States
12 persons (including agents and affiliates of such persons)
13 may—

14 (1) engage in any transaction necessary for the
15 exploration for and extraction of hydrocarbon re-
16 sources from any portion of any foreign exclusive
17 economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive
18 economic zone of the United States;

19 (2) export without license authority all equip-
20 ment necessary for the exploration for or extraction
21 of hydrocarbon resources described in paragraph (1);
22 and

23 (3) import into the United States hydrocarbon
24 resources described in paragraph (1) (including
25 products thereof) extracted under the authority of
26 this section.

1 (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “United
2 States person” means—

3 (1) any United States citizen or alien lawfully
4 admitted for permanent residence in the United
5 States; and

6 (2) any person other than an individual, if an
7 individual described in paragraph (1) owns or con-
8 trols at least 51 percent of the securities or other
9 equity interest in such person.

10 **SEC. 4. TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH AUTHORIZED HY-**
11 **DROCARBON EXPLORATION AND EXTRAC-**
12 **TION ACTIVITIES.**

13 Section 910 of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Ex-
14 port Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7209) is
15 amended by adding at the end the following the following
16 new subsection:

17 “(c) GENERAL LICENSE AUTHORITY FOR TRAVEL-
18 RELATED EXPENDITURES BY PERSONS ENGAGING IN
19 HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION ACTIVI-
20 TIES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
22 Treasury shall authorize under a general license the
23 travel-related transactions listed in section
24 515.560(c) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations,
25 for travel to, from, or within Cuba in connection

1 with exploration for, and the extraction of, hydro-
2 carbon resources in any part of a foreign maritime
3 exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the
4 United States exclusive economic zone.

5 “(2) PERSONS AUTHORIZED.—Persons author-
6 ized to travel to Cuba under this section include full-
7 time employees, executives, agents, and consultants
8 of oil and gas producers, distributors, and ship-
9 pers.”.

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