

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

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

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

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, 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. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST PROCESS REFORM.**

4 Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C.  
5 226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(q) PROTEST FILING FEE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to processing any  
2 protest filed under this section, the Secretary shall  
3 collect a filing fee to recover the cost for processing  
4 documents filed for each administrative protest.

5           “(2) AMOUNT.—The filing fee shall be cal-  
6 culated as follows:

7           “(A) For each protest filed in a submission  
8 not exceeding 10 pages in length, the base filing  
9 fee shall be \$150.

10           “(B) For each submission exceeding 10  
11 pages in length, an additional assessment of \$5  
12 per page in excess of 10 pages shall apply.

13           “(C) For protests that include more than  
14 one oil and gas lease parcel, right-of-way, or ap-  
15 plication for permit to drill in a submission, an  
16 additional assessment of \$10 per additional  
17 lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for  
18 permit to drill shall apply.

19           “(3) ADJUSTMENT.—(A) Beginning on January  
20 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the filing fees es-  
21 tablished in this subsection shall be adjusted, to  
22 whole dollar amounts, to reflect changes in the Pro-  
23 ducer Price Index as published by the U.S. Depart-  
24 ment of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for  
25 the previous 12 months.

1                   “(B) The Secretary shall publish the adjusted  
2                   filing fees in the Federal Register.”.