

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5616
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bringing Reliable In-
3 vestment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production Act of
4 2023” or the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2023”.

5 SEC. 2. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) OFFSHORE LEASE SALE.—The term “off-
8 shore lease sale” means an oil and gas lease sale—

9 (A) that is held by the Secretary in accord-
10 ance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands
11 Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), notwithstanding
12 the requirements of section 18 of that Act (43
13 U.S.C. 1344);

14 (B) offers the same lease form, lease
15 terms, economic conditions, and stipulations as
16 contained in the final notice of sale entitled
17 “Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil

1 and Gas Lease Sale 257” (86 Fed. Reg. 54728
2 (October 4, 2021)); and

3 (C) that, if any acceptable bids have been
4 received for any tract offered in the lease sale,
5 results in the issuance of leases within 90 days
6 of the sale to the highest bids on the tracts of-
7 fered, subject to the Bureau of Ocean Energy
8 Management “Summary of Procedures for De-
9 termining Bid Adequacy at Offshore Oil and
10 Gas Lease Sales Effective March 2016, with
11 Central Gulf of Mexico Sale 241 and Eastern
12 Gulf of Mexico Sale 226”.

13 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive any other re-
16 quirements under section 18 of the Outer Continental
17 Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) that would delay final
18 approval of an offshore lease sale under subsection (c).

19 (c) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 18 of
20 the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344),
21 the Secretary shall—

22 (1) conduct not fewer than 10 offshore lease
23 sales during the 5-year period beginning on the date
24 of enactment of this Act, notwithstanding the sales
25 to occur under the Proposed Final Program for the

1 2024–2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil
2 and Gas Leasing Program (88 Fed. Reg. 67798);
3 and

4 (2) ensure that the 2017–2022 Outer Conti-
5 nental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final
6 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and
7 Record of Decision shall apply to lease sales con-
8 ducted under this subsection and shall be sufficient
9 for purposes of complying with the National Envi-
10 ronmental Policy Act for offshore lease sales con-
11 ducted under this subsection to the extent it does
12 not conflict with this Act.

13 (d) TIMING.—In conducting the offshore lease sales
14 required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall conduct
15 an offshore lease sale not later than—

- 16 (1) March 31, 2024;
- 17 (2) August 31, 2024;
- 18 (3) March 31, 2025;
- 19 (4) August 31, 2025;
- 20 (5) March 31, 2026;
- 21 (6) August 31, 2026;
- 22 (7) March 31, 2027;
- 23 (8) August 31, 2027;
- 24 (9) March 31, 2028; and
- 25 (10) August 31, 2028.

1 (e) AREA OFFERED FOR LEASE.—

2 (1) ACREAGE.—The Secretary shall offer not
3 fewer than 80,000,000 acres for each offshore lease
4 sale conducted under subsection (c).

5 (2) LOCATION.—An offshore lease sale con-
6 ducted under subsection (c) shall be in the Gulf of
7 Mexico Region Program Area as identified in Figure
8 S–1 of the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil
9 and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program published
10 on November 18, 2016, by the Bureau of Ocean En-
11 ergy Management (as announced in the notice of
12 availability of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-
13 ment entitled “Notice of Availability of the 2017–
14 2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing
15 Proposed Final Program” (81 Fed. Reg. 84612 (No-
16 vember 23, 2016)).

17 (f) EFFECT OF LITIGATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—A civil action challenging an
19 offshore lease sale conducted under this section shall
20 not—

21 (A) affect the validity of any lease issued
22 under such an offshore lease sale; and

23 (B) except as provided in paragraph
24 (3)(B), cause a delay in the timelines for the
25 consideration of any exploration plan, develop-

1 ment plan, development operations coordination
2 document, applications for permit to drill, or
3 other application for a Federal agency author-
4 ization or approval for activities on a lease
5 issued under such an offshore lease sale.

6 (2) REMAND; PROCESSING OF APPROVALS AND
7 APPLICATIONS.—If, in a civil action described in
8 paragraph (1), a court finds that the offshore lease
9 sale was not carried out in compliance with Federal
10 law—

11 (A) the court shall not—

12 (i) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the off-
13 shore lease sale;

14 (ii) set aside, vacate, or enjoin the
15 leases issued pursuant to the offshore lease
16 sale; or

17 (iii) enjoin the Secretary from issuing
18 leases to the highest bidders in the chal-
19 lenged offshore lease sale;

20 (B) the court shall remand the matter to
21 the Secretary and require the Secretary to cor-
22 rect the noncompliance; and

23 (C) the Secretary shall continue to process
24 all exploration plans, development plans, devel-
25 opment operations coordination documents, ap-

1 plications for a permit to drill, and other appli-
2 cations for a Federal agency authorization or
3 other approval for activities requested under
4 any lease issued under the challenged offshore
5 lease sale in accordance with the Outer Conti-
6 nental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et
7 seq.).

8 (3) NOTICE.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days
10 after the date on which a civil action described
11 in paragraph (1) is served on the United
12 States, the Secretary shall notify the holder of
13 any lease issued, or apparent high bidder if the
14 lease has not yet been issued, under the off-
15 shore lease sale that is the subject of the civil
16 action of the filing of the civil action.

17 (B) TIMELINE.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of receipt of a notice under sub-
19 paragraph (A), the holder of the lease may file
20 with the Secretary, and the Secretary may ap-
21 prove, a request to pause the timeline with re-
22 spect to the term of the lease during any period
23 in which the civil action is pending.

