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Congress of the United States
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ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE

Memo

To: Republican Conference Members
From: Congressman John Shadegg
Date: September 15, 2008
Re: Shocking Oil Facts!!!

ENVIRONMENTALISTS BLOCK 100% OF LEASING ON OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

This week, Democrats will bring their purported drilling bills to the House and Senate Floor. Americans are waiting with baited breath.

In fact, the bills are meaningless – a complete “hoax” to use Nancy Pelosi’s term. The attached compelling facts demonstrate that nothing will happen should these bills become law. Radical environmentalists will sue and stop everything. That’s exactly what they’ve done with 100% of all leases in the outer continental shelf, including Alaska. Not 98%, not 99%, but 100%. And they’ve done the same for leases in the Intermountain West.

If the Gang of 10 really believes their bill or any proposal that does not limit excessive environmental lawsuits will actually produce American-made energy in the foreseeable future, they are naïve and fooling themselves.

For more information, please contact me at (202) 225-3361.

LEGAL CHALLENGES BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ARE BLOCKING OR SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYING OIL LEASES AND PRODUCTION

Radical environmentalists challenged every lease in the Chukchi Sea:

- The Administration issued 487 leases in the Chukchi Sea Sale 193 in February 2008.
- The Center for Biological Diversity, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and other radical environmental organizations, in January 2008, filed a pre-emptive suit challenging **all 487 leases** under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.
- Status: Currently pending.¹

Radical environmentalists challenged the entire 2007-2012 5-year national OCS leasing program:

- The Administration, in July 2007, proposed a national schedule to issue oil leases over a 5-year period (2007-2012) in the outer continental shelf, including Alaska.
- The Center for Biological Diversity and other radical environmental organizations immediately filed suit challenging **all existing leases and all future leases** under the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and various other laws.
- Status: Currently pending.²

Radical environmentalists challenged exploration activities of every lease in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas:

- There are 748 leases which lie in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.
- The Center for Biological Diversity, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and other radical environmental organizations, in May 2008, sued, challenging all seismic activity at **all 748 leases in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas** under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Marine Mammals Protection Act.
- Status: Currently pending.³

¹ U.S. District Court Alaska; Case No. 1:08-cv-0004-RRB

² U.S. Court of Appeals for District Columbia; Case No. 07-1247

³ U.S. District Court of Alaska; Case No. 1:08-cv-0001-RRB; U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Case No. 08-35571

Radical environmentalists block proposed drilling plans:

- On February 15, 2007, the Minerals Management Service approved the proposed exploration plan for 12 leases in the Beaufort Sea.
- The Center for Biological Diversity, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and other radical environmental organizations sued in April 2007 and obtained a court order halting drilling on **all 12 leases**. This order has already stopped activity for two years.
- Status: Currently pending.⁴

Radical environmentalists sue under FOIA seeking evidence for use in future litigation to block all leases:

- The Administration issued 487 leases in the Chukchi Sea Sale 193 in February 2008.
- The Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council, in January 2008, sued under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), seeking documents for their effort to stop all oil exploration and production.
- Status: Currently pending.⁵

Radical environmentalists protest every lease in BLM New Mexico State Office lease sale:

- On July 16, 2008, the BLM New Mexico State Office auctioned 78 leases in New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- The Western Environmental Law Center and the Wild Earth Guardians preemptively, on July 1, 2008, administratively challenged **all 78 leases** under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act⁶.
- Status: Currently pending.⁷

⁴ U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; Case no. 07-71457

⁵ U.S. District Court of Alaska; Case No. 3:08-cv-00159-RRB

⁶ 43 CFR 3120.1-3

⁷ Bureau of Land Management

Radical environmentalists block a majority of oil and gas leases in the Rocky Mountain States:

- In 2007, approximately **50% of the oil and gas leases** in the Rocky Mountain States were administratively challenged.⁸
- In Utah alone, oil and gas development on millions of acres is being held up by environmental groups.⁹

⁸ Bureau of Land Management

⁹ U.S. District Court, Utah Central; Case No. 2:04CV574 DAK