

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0001

State management-federal mineral leases.

Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management  
Committee

## A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to introduce a bill  
2 and enact law to amend the federal Mineral Leasing Act to  
3 authorize the state of Wyoming to administer and manage  
4 mineral leasing on federal lands located in Wyoming.

5

6 WHEREAS, in 1920, Congress enacted into law the Mineral  
7 Leasing Act, which authorizes the leasing of federal lands  
8 for the exploration and development of minerals owned by the  
9 United States; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act governs energy minerals,  
12 including oil, gas and coal and solid leasable minerals,  
13 including phosphate, potassium, sodium and oil shale; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act authorizes the United States  
2 Secretary of Interior (Secretary) to lease and regulate the  
3 development of minerals owned by the United States; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the Secretary delegated authority under the Mineral  
6 Leasing Act to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a federal  
7 agency that is part of the United States Department of  
8 Interior; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the BLM administers the leasing program for minerals  
11 on federal lands, including federal lands controlled by the  
12 BLM and federal lands under the jurisdiction of other federal  
13 agencies; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act permits the leasing of  
16 federal lands for the development of minerals through a  
17 competitive bidding process; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act requires competitive bidding  
20 for oil and gas lease sales on federal lands to be held in  
21 each state where eligible federal lands are available not  
22 less than quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary  
23 determines it is necessary; and

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2 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act requires competitive bidding  
3 for coal leases on federal lands that are conducted on a case-  
4 by-case basis in response to specific nominations submitted  
5 through a lease application process; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Secretary issued a secretarial order  
8 that directed the United States Department of Interior to  
9 pause new coal leasing on federal lands; and

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11 WHEREAS, the 2016, coal leasing moratorium was revoked in  
12 2017 through secretarial order; and

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14 WHEREAS, in 2022, a federal court reinstated the coal leasing  
15 moratorium until the BLM completed a more sufficient  
16 environmental review under the National Environmental Policy  
17 Act; and

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19 WHEREAS, the 2022 coal leasing moratorium remained in effect  
20 until February 2024, when the United States Court of Appeals  
21 for the Ninth District vacated the 2022 court decision,  
22 holding that the decision was moot; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 2024, the BLM issued a record of decision for the  
2 Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan that would make  
3 approximately forty-eight (48) billion tons of coal  
4 unavailable for leasing in north central Wyoming; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, similar to coal leasing, in January 2021, President  
7 Biden issued an executive order that directed the United  
8 States Department of Interior to pause new oil and gas leasing  
9 on federal lands pending a comprehensive review; and

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11 WHEREAS, in June 2021, a federal court issued an injunction  
12 ordering the Biden administration to end its oil and gas  
13 leasing moratorium; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in June 2022, BLM held its first oil and gas lease  
16 sale since the moratorium by offering one hundred twenty-two  
17 (122) parcels containing one hundred nineteen thousand five  
18 hundred sixty-four (119,564) acres of federal lands in  
19 Wyoming. This was the only oil and gas lease sale offered in  
20 Wyoming in 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2023, BLM did not offer any federal land parcels  
2 and acres for oil and gas leasing in Wyoming in the first  
3 quarter; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, in 2023, BLM offered for oil and gas leasing in  
6 Wyoming one hundred sixteen (116) parcels containing one  
7 hundred twenty-seven thousand fourteen (127,014) acres of  
8 federal lands in the second quarter, eighty-one (81) parcels  
9 containing sixty-seven thousand one hundred eighty-two  
10 (67,182) acres of federal lands in the third quarter and  
11 thirty-nine (39) parcels containing thirty-six thousand six  
12 hundred seventy-four (36,674) acres of federal lands in the  
13 fourth quarter; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the number of federal land parcels and acres offered  
16 for oil and gas leasing in Wyoming continued to decrease  
17 between 2023 and 2024; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, in 2024, BLM offered for oil and gas leasing in  
20 Wyoming thirty (30) parcels containing thirteen thousand four  
21 hundred sixteen (13,416) acres of federal lands in the first  
22 quarter, eighteen (18) parcels containing ten thousand one  
23 hundred fifty-five (10,155) acres of federal lands in the

1 second quarter, four (4) parcels containing one hundred  
2 fifty-nine (159) acres of federal lands in the third quarter  
3 and eight (8) parcels containing four thousand six hundred  
4 forty-one (4,641) acres of federal lands in the fourth  
5 quarter; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 2025, President Trump issued executive orders to  
8 increase and encourage energy exploration and production on  
9 federal lands; and

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11 WHEREAS, in response to these executive orders, the BLM is  
12 currently revising the Buffalo Field Office Resource  
13 Management Plan; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in 2025, Congress enacted into law the One Big  
16 Beautiful Bill Act; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act reiterated the Mineral  
19 Leasing Act by requiring BLM to hold quarterly oil and gas  
20 lease sales in states that contain available federal land for  
21 leasing, including Wyoming; and

1 WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act requires that not  
2 less than four million (4,000,000) additional acres of  
3 federal lands within known coal reserves be made available  
4 for coal leasing; and

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6 WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act streamlines oil and  
7 gas leasing on federal lands by requiring the BLM to complete  
8 parcel review and offer federal land parcels in an oil and  
9 gas lease sale within six (6) months; and

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11 WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act mandates that the  
12 Secretary process qualified coal leasing applications in a  
13 timely manner and expedite any required environmental review  
14 for qualified coal leasing applications; and

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16 WHEREAS, the federal administration of mineral leasing on  
17 federal lands in Wyoming over the past ten (10) years has  
18 been inconsistent, unpredictable and subject to political  
19 delays that negatively impact Wyoming's economy, energy  
20 industry and citizens; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the federal administration of mineral leasing has  
23 been subject to prolonged leasing moratoriums, regulatory

1   uncertainty and delayed environmental reviews under the  
2   National Environmental Policy Act that have resulted in a  
3   decrease in mineral activity on federal lands within Wyoming;  
4   and

5  
6   WHEREAS, even after federal lands in Wyoming are leased, the  
7   federal government retains legal title to the federal lands  
8   and the federal government receives money from sales,  
9   bonuses, royalties and rentals from federal mineral leasing;  
10   and

11  
12   WHEREAS, the tenth amendment to the United States  
13   constitution reserves to the states all powers not delegated  
14   to the federal government or prohibited by it to the states;  
15   and

16  
17   WHEREAS, the tenth amendment to the United States  
18   constitution supports the state of Wyoming having authority  
19   to administer mineral leasing on federal lands within Wyoming  
20   because Wyoming should have greater control over natural  
21   resources within its borders when not expressly prohibited by  
22   federal law; and



1 WHEREAS, Wyoming's management of mineral leasing on state  
2 lands demonstrates that Wyoming can adequately and  
3 efficiently manage and administer mineral leasing on federal  
4 lands; and

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6 WHEREAS, Wyoming possesses an unparalleled understanding of  
7 land within its borders, making Wyoming better equipped than  
8 the federal government to administer and manage mineral  
9 leasing on federal lands located within the state; and

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11 WHEREAS, Wyoming could administer and manage mineral leasing  
12 on federal lands located within the state more efficiently  
13 and at a lower cost than the federal government; and

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15 WHEREAS, Wyoming has knowledge of the state's unique terrain,  
16 geology, wildlife habitats and ecosystems, which enables  
17 Wyoming to assess site-specific environmental impacts more  
18 accurately and quickly and tailor leasing decisions to local  
19 conditions; and

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21 WHEREAS, Wyoming's state agencies are in constant  
22 communication with local governments, landowners and industry  
23 stakeholders, which would result in a more responsive,

1 efficient and balanced decision making process regarding  
2 mineral leasing and in a manner that reflects Wyoming's  
3 policies and priorities; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, authorizing Wyoming to administer and manage mineral  
6 leasing of federal minerals not only respects the principles  
7 of federalism and local control but also ensures that  
8 decisions are made by those who know the land best and are  
9 most invested in its long-term sustainability.

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11 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
12 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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14 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming Legislature requests that  
15 Congress introduce and enact legislation to amend the Mineral  
16 Leasing Act to authorize the state of Wyoming to administer  
17 and manage mineral leasing on federal lands located in  
18 Wyoming.

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1           **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
2   transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
3   United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker  
4   of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress,  
5   to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and to each member of  
6   the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners.

7

8 ( END )