

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

State management-federal mineral leases.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Ide

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 oil,
4 gas and coal 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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2 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act authorizes the United States
3 Secretary of Interior (Secretary) to lease and regulate the
4 development of minerals owned by the United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Secretary delegated authority under the Mineral
7 Leasing Act to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a federal
8 agency that is part of the United States Department of
9 Interior; and

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11 WHEREAS, the BLM administers the leasing program for minerals
12 on federal lands, including federal lands controlled by the
13 BLM and federal lands under the jurisdiction of other federal
14 agencies; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act permits the leasing of
17 federal lands for the development of oil, gas and coal through
18 a competitive bidding process; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Mineral Leasing Act requires competitive bidding
21 for oil and gas lease sales on federal lands to be held in
22 each state where eligible federal lands are available not

1 less than quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary
2 determines is necessary; and

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

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

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13 WHEREAS, the 2016 coal leasing moratorium was revoked in 2017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

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

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21 WHEREAS, the 2022 coal leasing moratorium remained in effect
22 until February 2024, when the United States Court of Appeals

1 for the Ninth District vacated the 2022 court decision,
2 holding that the decision was moot; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 hundred fifty-five (10,155) acres of federal lands in the
2 second quarter, four (4) parcels containing one hundred
3 fifty-nine (159) acres of federal lands in the third quarter
4 and eight (8) parcels containing four thousand six hundred
5 forty-one (4,641) acres of federal lands in the fourth
6 quarter; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2025, President Trump issued executive orders to
9 increase and encourage energy exploration and production on
10 federal lands including oil, gas and coal; and

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

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

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19 WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act reiterated the Mineral
20 Leasing Act by requiring BLM to hold quarterly oil and gas
21 lease sales in states that contain available federal land for
22 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 oil, gas and coal
17 leasing on federal lands in Wyoming over the past ten (10)
18 years has been inconsistent, unpredictable and subject to
19 political delays that negatively impact Wyoming's economy,
20 energy industry and citizens; and

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22 WHEREAS, the federal administration of oil, gas and coal
23 leasing has been subject to prolonged leasing moratoriums,

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

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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

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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

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

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1 WHEREAS, Wyoming's management of oil, gas and coal leasing on
2 state lands demonstrates that Wyoming can adequately and
3 efficiently manage and administer oil, gas and coal leasing
4 on federal 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 oil, gas and
9 coal leasing on federal lands located within the state; and

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

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

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22 WHEREAS, Wyoming's state agencies are in constant
23 communication with local governments, landowners and industry

1 stakeholders, which would result in a more responsive,
2 efficient and balanced decision making process regarding oil,
3 gas and coal leasing and in a manner that reflects Wyoming's
4 policies and priorities; and

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

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

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

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21 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
22 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
23 United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress,
2 to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation and to each member of
3 the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners.
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(END)