

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2752

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct onshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. THORNBERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct onshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “BLM Live Internet
5 Auctions Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE**
2 **SALES.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 17(b)(1) of the Min-
4 eral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence,
6 by inserting “, except as provided in subparagraph
7 (C)” after “by oral bidding”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(C) In order to diversify and expand the Nation’s
10 onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to the
11 Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing
12 process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales
13 through Internet-based live bidding methods.”.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the tenth
15 Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment
16 made by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall
17 analyze the first 10 such lease sales and report to Con-
18 gress the findings of the analysis. The report shall in-
19 clude—

20 (1) estimates on increases or decreases in such
21 lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bid-
22 ding, in—

23 (A) the number of bidders;

24 (B) the average amount of bid;

25 (C) the highest amount bid; and

26 (D) the lowest bid; and

1 (2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to
2 the Department of the Interior as a result of such
3 sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding.

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