

HOW BIG AN IMPACT?

In this study, we analyze the economic contribution of the independents and potential loss as a result of policies that effectively prevent them from participating in future development in the offshore Gulf of Mexico and, in particular, in the deepwater. Our analysis for the 2009–20 forecast period indicates that the exclusion of the independents from the offshore GOM would mean:

The following lost jobs in the four-state Gulf region (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas)—direct, indirect, and induced: 2009—202,502; 2015—289,716; 2020—300,974.

Additionally, 40,777 construction-related jobs would be lost in the four-state Gulf region during 2009–20. This activity includes construction of rigs, platforms, pipelines, and production facilities.

The following lost taxes and royalties to the federal government: 2009—\$7.34 billion; 2015—\$10.13 billion; 2020—9.98 billion.

The following lost state and local tax revenues in the four-state Gulf region: 2009—\$3.18 billion; 2015—\$4.59 billion; 2020—\$4.68 billion.

Altogether, more than \$147 billion in federal, state, and local revenues would be lost in a 10-year period if independents are excluded from the Gulf of Mexico. These estimates only include revenues collected from the four-state Gulf region.

Within the deepwater, the exclusion of the independents would mean:

The following lost jobs in the four-state Gulf region—direct, indirect, and induced: 2009—121,298; 2015—230,241; 2020—265,113.

The following lost taxes and royalties to the federal government: 2009—\$3.64 billion; 2015—\$726 billion; 2020—\$8.33 billion.

The following lost state and local tax revenues in the four-state Gulf region: 2009—\$1.63 billion; 2015—\$3.35 billion; 2020—\$3.94 billion.

Altogether, more than \$106 billion in federal, state, and local revenues would be lost in a 10-year period if independents are excluded from the deepwater.

Overall, the exclusion of the independents would significantly shrink offshore oil and gas activity, reduce the dynamism of the industry, and dilute U.S. technological and industry leadership.

The reason for all these effects is that independents represent a much larger share of total activity than is generally recognized. Independent producers are an integral part of shelf, as well as deepwater, drilling and discovery.

Independents are the largest shareholder in 66% of the 7,521 leases in the entire Gulf of Mexico and in 81% of the producing leases.

In the deepwater portion of the Gulf of Mexico, independents are the largest shareholder in 52% of all leases and in 46% of the producing leases. They operate over half of the developing and producing deepwater fields.

Independents have drilled 1,298 wells in the deepwater, and they currently account for over 900,000 barrels a day of oil equivalent (oil and natural gas together).

Independents are responsible for an average of 70% of the “farm-ins”: the partnerships formed following the original lease agreement that enable prospects to be drilled and oil and gas produced.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD as if read; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Minnesota, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:34 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 9:56 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FRANKEN).

FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering S. 510.

Mr. REID. The food safety bill; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE WITHDRAWN

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4715

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. I now call up the Harkin substitute amendment which is at the desk and ask for that amendment to be considered read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. HARKIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4715.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

CLOTURE MOTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have two cloture motions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the cloture motions.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Harkin substitute amendment No. 4715 to Calendar No. 247, S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Claire McCaskill, Tom Harkin, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Inouye, Richard J. Durbin,

Byron L. Dorgan, Jack Reed, Jeff Bingaman, Mark Begich, Blanche L. Lincoln, Robert Menendez, Daniel K. Akaka, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 247, S. 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Claire McCaskill, Tom Harkin, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Inouye, Richard J. Durbin, Byron L. Dorgan, Jack Reed, Jeff Bingaman, Mark Begich, Blanche L. Lincoln, Robert Menendez, Daniel K. Akaka, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the cloture vote on the substitute amendment occur at 6 p.m. on Monday, November 29, and the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the substitute, then all postcloture time be yielded back except for the time specified in this agreement; and that the only amendments or motions in order be those specified in this agreement, with debate limitations as specified:

Johanns motion to suspend with respect to amendment No. 4702; Baucus motion to suspend with respect to amendment No. 4713, with a total of 60 minutes of debate with respect to these two motions with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Baucus and Johans; Coburn motion to suspend with respect to amendment No. 4696—substitute; Coburn motion to suspend with respect to amendment No. 4697 dealing with earmarks; that there be a total of 4 hours of debate with respect to the Coburn motions, equally divided and controlled between Senators COBURN and INOUE or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of all time specified here, the Senate proceed to vote with respect to the motions to suspend in the order listed: Johans 1099; Baucus 1099; Coburn earmarks; Coburn substitute; that upon disposition of the motions, and if any motion is successful, then the Senate vote immediately on the amendment; that no further motions or amendments be in order; the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; that after the reading of the pay-go statement with respect to the bill, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; and that the cloture motion with respect to the bill be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed