

(5) Restoration efforts are more successful when there is involvement from neighboring communities and better stewardship will evolve from more diverse involvement.

(6) Designing demonstration restoration projects through a collaborative approach may—

(A) lead to the development of cost effective restoration activities;

(B) empower diverse organizations to implement activities which value local and traditional knowledge;

(C) build ownership and civic pride; and

(D) ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote healthy watersheds and reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires, insect infestation, and disease in the forests in New Mexico;

(2) to improve the functioning of forest ecosystems and enhance plant and wildlife biodiversity by reducing the unnaturally high number and density of small diameter trees on Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal forest lands;

(3) to improve communication and joint problem solving among individuals and groups who are interested in restoring the diversity and productivity of forested watersheds in New Mexico;

(4) to improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees;

(5) to encourage sustainable communities and sustainable forests through collaborative partnerships, whose objectives are forest restoration; and

(6) to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate ecologically sound forest restoration techniques.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

(1) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(2) the term “stakeholder” includes: tribal governments, educational institutions, landowners, and other interested public and private entities.

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

(a) The Secretary shall establish a cooperative forest restoration program in New Mexico in order to provide cost-share grants to stakeholders for experimental forest restoration projects that are designed through a collaborative process (hereinafter referred to as the “Collaborative Forest Restoration Program”). The projects may be entirely on, or on any combination of, Federal, Tribal, State, County, or Municipal forest lands. The Federal share of an individual project cost shall not exceed eighty percent of the total cost. The twenty percent matching may be in the form of cash or in-kind contribution.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive funding under this Act, a project shall—

(1) address the following objectives—

(A) reduce the threat of large, high intensity wildfires and the negative effects of excessive competition between trees by restoring ecosystem functions, structures, and species composition, including the reduction of non-native species populations;

(B) re-establish fire regimes approximating those that shaped forest ecosystems prior to fire suppression;

(C) preserve old and large trees;

(D) replant trees in deforested areas if they exist in the proposed project area; and

(E) improve the use of, or add value to, small diameter trees;

(2) comply with all Federal and State environmental laws;

(3) include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders as well as appropriate Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal government representatives in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the project;

(4) incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; and

(5) include a multi-party assessment to—

(A) identify both the existing ecological condition of the proposed project area and the desired future condition; and

(B) report, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of the project including improvements in local management skills and on the ground results;

(6) create local employment or training opportunities within the context of accomplishing restoration objectives, that are consistent with the purposes of this Act, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps where appropriate;

(7) not exceed four years in length;

(8) not exceed a total annual cost of \$150,000, with the Federal portion not exceeding \$120,000 annually, nor exceed a total cost of \$450,000 for the project, with the Federal portion of the total cost not exceeding \$360,000;

(9) leverage Federal funding through in-kind or matching contributions; and

(10) include an agreement by each stakeholder to attend an annual workshop with other stakeholders for the purpose of discussing the cooperative forest restoration program and projects implemented under this Act. The Secretary shall coordinate and fund the annual workshop. Stakeholders may use funding for projects authorized under this Act to pay for their travel and per diem expenses to attend the workshop.

SEC. 6. SELECTION PROCESS.

(a) After consulting with the technical advisory panel established in subsection (b), the Secretary shall select the proposals that will receive funding through the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

(b) The Secretary shall convene a technical advisory panel to evaluate the proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations regarding which proposals would best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The technical advisory panel shall consider eligibility criteria established in section 5, the effect on long term management, and seek to use a consensus-based decision making process to develop such recommendations. The panel shall be composed of 12 to 15 members, to be appointed by the Secretary as follows:

(1) A State Natural Resource official from the State of New Mexico.

(2) At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies.

(3) At least one tribal or pueblo representative.

(4) At least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration.

(5) Equal representation from—

(A) conservation interests;

(B) local communities; and

(C) commodity interests.

SEC. 7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

The Secretary shall establish a multi-party monitoring and evaluation process in order to assess the cumulative accomplishments or adverse impacts of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program. The Secretary shall include any interested individual or organization in the monitoring and

evaluation process. The Secretary also shall conduct a monitoring program to assess the short and long term ecological effects of the restoration treatments, if any, or a minimum of 15 years.

SEC. 8. REPORT.

No later than five years after the first fiscal year in which funding is made available for this program, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. The report shall include an assessment on whether, and to what extent, the projects funded pursuant to this Act are meeting the purposes of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 annually to carry out this Act.

GAS HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H.R. 1753) to promote research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1753

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Gas Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONTRACT.—The term “contract” means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term “cooperative agreement” means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) GRANT.—The term “grant” means a grant awarded under a grant agreement, within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education, within the meaning of section 1201(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

(7) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term “Secretary of Commerce” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(8) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term “Secretary of Defense” means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

(9) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term “Secretary of the Interior” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the Minerals Management Service.

SEC. 3. GAS HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) **COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of gas hydrate research and development.

(2) **DESIGNATIONS.**—The Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 120 days after the date on which all such individuals are designated and not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

(B) make recommendations on future activities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

(b) **GRANTS, CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, INTERAGENCY FUNDS TRANSFER AGREEMENTS, AND FIELD WORK PROPOSALS.**—

(1) **ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.**—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop gas hydrate as a source of energy;

(B) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of gas hydrate resources;

(C) undertake research programs to provide safe means of transport and storage of gas produced from gas hydrates;

(D) promote education and training in gas hydrate resource research and resource development;

(E) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(F) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through gas hydrates.

(2) **COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.**—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive merit-based process.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(1) advise the Secretary on potential applications of gas hydrate;

(2) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the gas hydrate research and development program carried out under subsection (a)(1); and

(3) report to the Congress within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, or at such later date as the Secretary considers advisable, on the impact on global climate change from gas hydrate extraction and consumption.

(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with the administration of the program carried out under subsection (a)(1).

(2) **CONSTRUCTION COSTS.**—None of the funds made available to carry out this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(e) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among Government, industry, and institutions of higher education to research, identify, assess, and explore gas hydrate resources;

(2) undertake programs to develop basic information necessary for promoting long-term interest in gas hydrate resources as an energy source;

(3) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for gas hydrate resource development; and

(5) report annually to Congress on accomplishments under this section.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POLICY ACT OF 1970.

Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) The term ‘gas hydrate’ means a gas clathrate that—

“(A) is in the form of a gas-water ice-like crystalline material; and

“(B) is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas.”; and

(3) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) for purposes of this section and sections 202 through 205 only, gas hydrate; and”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this Act—

(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

(2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2001;

(3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

(4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; and

(5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

Amounts authorized under this section shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

Section 3 of this Act shall cease to be effective after the end of fiscal year 2004.

SEC. 7. REPORTS AND STUDIES.

The Secretary shall simultaneously provide to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate copies of any report or study that the Department of Energy prepares at the direction of any committee of the Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 2806

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CONTRACT.**—The term “contract” means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—The term “cooperative agreement” means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) **GRANT.**—The term “grant” means a grant awarded under a grant agreement, within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

(5) **INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.**—The term “industrial enterprise” means a private, non-governmental enterprise incorporated under Federal or State law that has an expertise or capability that relates to methane hydrate research and development.

(6) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education, within the meaning of section 102(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)).

(7) **METHANE HYDRATE.**—The term “methane hydrate” means—

(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas, and

(B) other natural gas hydrates found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.

(8) **SECRETARY OF ENERGY.**—The term “Secretary of Energy” means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

(9) **SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.**—The term “Secretary of Commerce” means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(10) **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**—The term “Secretary of Defense” means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

(11) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—The term “Secretary of the Interior” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the Minerals Management Service.

SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of methane hydrate research and development in accordance with subsection (b).

(2) **DESIGNATIONS.**—The Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

(3) **COORDINATION.**—The individual designated by the Secretary of Energy shall coordinate all activities within the Department of Energy relating to methane hydrate research and development.

(4) **MEETINGS.**—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

(B) make recommendations on future activities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

(b) **GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research and development authorized by this subsection the Secretary of Energy may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hydrate as a source of energy;

(B) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of methane hydrate resources;

(C) undertake research programs to provide safe means of transport and storage of methane produced from gas methane hydrates;

(D) promote education and training in methane hydrate resource research and resource development;

(E) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development);

(F) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through methane hydrates; and

(G) conduct exploratory drilling in support of the activities authorized by this paragraph.

(2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive merit-based process.

(3) CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish and advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(i) advise the Secretary of Energy on potential applications of methane hydrate; and

(ii) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the as methane hydrate research and development program carried out under subsection (a)(1); and

(iii) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a report on the anticipated impact on global climate change from—

(I) methane hydrate formation;

(II) methane hydrate degassing (including natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(III) the consumption of natural gas produced from methane hydrates.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—Not more than twenty-five percent of the individuals serving on the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

(C) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary of Energy for expenses associated with the administration of the program carried out under subsection (a)(1).

(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available to carry out this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(d) Responsibilities of the Secretary of Energy.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of Energy, shall—

(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among government, industry, and institutions of higher education to research, identify, assess, and explore methane hydrate resources;

(2) undertake programs to develop basic information necessary for promoting long-term interest in methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

(3) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for methane hydrate resource development; and

(5) report annually to Congress on accomplishments under this section.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POLICY ACT OF 1970.

Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) for purposes of this section and sections 202 through 205 only, methane hydrate; and”.

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph 6 the following:

“(7) The term “methane hydrate” means—

“(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas; and

“(B) other natural gas hydrates found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.”;

SEC. 5. REPORTS AND STUDIES.

The Secretary of Energy shall simultaneously provide to the Committee on Science and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate copies of any report or study that the Department of Energy pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this Act—

(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

(2) \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2001;

(3) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

(4) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

(5) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

(6) thereafter such sums as are necessary.

Amounts authorized under this section shall remain available until expended.

Amend the title to read as follow: “An act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes.”.

The amendment (No. 2806) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1753, as amended, was passed.

SENATOR COLLINS FROM MAINE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also want to thank the Senator from Maine who is on the floor and waiting to assist with the closing of the Senate for the year.

The hour is late on Friday night, but she has agreed to be here. And she also does a magnificent job presiding in the

Chair. I thank her for being here and being prepared to help us with the closing actions that are necessary in order for the Senate to complete this session of the Congress.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL LAND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 2737, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The Clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2737) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Illinois certain federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action.

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

The bill (H.R. 2737) was read the third time, and passed.

JACKSON MULTI-AGENCY CAMPUS ACT OF 1999

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 401, S. 1374.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as following:

A bill (S. 1374) to authorize the development and maintenance of multi-agency campus project in the town of Jackson, WY.

There being objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Jackson Multi-Agency Campus Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the management of public land and natural resources and the service of the public in the area of Jackson, Wyoming, are responsibilities shared by—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Forest Service;

(C) the Department of the Interior, including—

(i) the National Park Service; and

(ii) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(D) the Game and Fish Commission of the State of Wyoming;