

loan, discount, or credit sale made, or upon any bond, note, obligation, bill of exchange, financing transaction, or other evidence of debt issued to or acquired by any other person or governmental or private entity may not exceed 17 percent per year.”.

SA 5056. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI of division A, add the following:

SEC. 1606. OIL AND NATURAL GAS LEASING IN NEW PRODUCING AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE PRODUCING STATE.—The term “eligible producing State” means—

(A) a new producing State; and
(B) any other producing State that has, within the offshore administrative boundaries beyond the submerged land of a State, areas available for oil leasing, natural gas leasing, or both.

(2) NEW PRODUCING AREA.—The term “new producing area” means an area that is—

(A) within the offshore administrative boundaries beyond the submerged land of a State; and

(B) not available for oil or natural gas leasing as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) NEW PRODUCING STATE.—The term “new producing State” means a State with respect to which a petition has been approved by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(4) QUALIFIED REVENUES.—The term “qualified revenues” means all rentals, royalties, bonus bids, and other sums due and payable to the United States from leases entered into on or after the date of enactment of this Act for new producing areas.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) PETITION FOR LEASING NEW PRODUCING AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor of a State, with the concurrence of the State legislature, may submit to the Secretary a petition requesting that the Secretary make a new producing area of the State eligible for oil leasing, gas leasing, or both, as determined by the State, in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) and the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(2) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary receives a petition under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the petition.

(c) DISPOSITION OF QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES FROM ELIGIBLE PRODUCING STATES.—Notwithstanding section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338), for each applicable fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit—

(1) 50 percent of qualified revenues in the general fund of the Treasury; and

(2) 50 percent of qualified revenues in a special account in the Treasury, which the Sec-

retary shall disburse to eligible producing States for new producing areas, to be allocated in accordance with subsection (d)(1).

(d) ALLOCATION TO ELIGIBLE PRODUCING STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount made available under subsection (c)(2)(A) shall be allocated to eligible producing States in amounts (based on a formula established by the Secretary by regulation) that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each eligible producing State that is closest to the geographic center of the applicable leased tract and the geographic center of the leased tract, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) USE.—Amounts allocated to an eligible producing State under paragraph (1) shall be used to address the impacts of any oil and natural gas exploration and production activities under this section.

(e) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the amount of funds otherwise dedicated to the land and water conservation fund established under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-5); or

(2) any authority that permits energy production under any other provision of law.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public of an addition to a previously announced hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on July 9, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

In addition to the other measures previously announced, the Subcommittee will also consider S. 3179, a bill to authorize the conveyance of certain public land in the State of New Mexico owned or leased by the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday,

June 24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 2:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Emergence of the Superbug: Antimicrobial Resistance in the U.S.” on Tuesday, June 24, 2008. The hearing will commence at 10:30 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Ending Excessive Speculation in Commodity Markets: Legislative Options.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE LAW

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity” on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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