

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of the Interior to annually submit to Congress, and make publicly available on a website, a report on decommissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms, and pipelines.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of the Interior to annually submit to Congress, and make publicly available on a website, a report on decommissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms, and pipelines.

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 “Plug Offshore Wells  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON DECOMMISSIONING OFF-**  
2 **SHORE OIL AND GAS WELLS, PLATFORMS,**  
3 **AND PIPELINES.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

5 (1) DECOMMISSIONING.—The term “decommis-  
6 sioning” has the meaning given the term in section  
7 250.1700 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations  
8 (or successor regulations).

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after  
12 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
13 the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly  
14 available on the website of the Department of the Interior  
15 a report that describes, with respect to the preceding cal-  
16 endar year—

17 (1) the number of applications for decommis-  
18 sioning an offshore oil and gas well, platform, or  
19 pipeline that were required to be submitted pursuant  
20 to subpart Q of part 250 of title 30, Code of Federal  
21 Regulations (or successor regulations);

22 (2) the number of applications described in  
23 paragraph (1) that were received by the Secretary;

24 (3) the number of offshore oil and gas wells,  
25 platforms, and pipelines for which decommissioning  
26 did not occur by the date required pursuant to sub-

1 part Q of part 250 of title 30, Code of Federal Reg-  
2 ulations (or successor regulations);

3 (4) the number of offshore oil and gas wells and  
4 platforms approved for decommissioning in place  
5 pursuant to section 250.1750 of title 30, Code of  
6 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

7 (5) the length of any offshore oil and gas pipe-  
8 lines that—

9 (A) were decommissioned in place pursu-  
10 ant to section 250.1750 of title 30, Code of  
11 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

12 and

13 (B) were removed pursuant to—

14 (i) section 250.1752 of title 30, Code  
15 of Federal Regulations (or successor regu-  
16 lations); and

17 (ii) section 250.1754 of title 30, Code  
18 of Federal Regulations (or successor regu-  
19 lations); and

20 (6) the status of enforcement actions, including  
21 notices of incident of noncompliance, orders, cita-  
22 tions, civil penalties, and disqualifications from fu-  
23 ture offshore operations, by the Bureau of Safety  
24 and Environmental Enforcement with respect to de-

- 1 commissioning offshore oil and gas wells, platforms,
- 2 and pipelines.