

May 19, 2005

**H.R. 2361— Additional Amendments to the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2006 – Part II**

The following contains information on the three additional amendments that have not been pre-printed in the Congressional Record, and a revision of one amendment that has been pre-printed. Under an open rule, amendments do not need to be pre-printed and may be offered at any time without prior notice.

RSC staff contact for amendments: Derek Baker (6-8585) and Sheila Cole (6-9719).

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**Beauprez #6 (revised description).** Reduces by \$30 million the funds made available for the NEA Grants and Administration; increases by \$27.5 million the funds made available for Wildland Fire Management for “hazardous fuels reduction.” According to the bill’s sponsor, the amendment transfer funds to the U.S. Forest Service for “thinning projects to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.”

**Peterson of PA.** Strikes the words “natural gas” from Sections 105 and 106 of the bill. Section 105 prohibits funds in the title from being used by the “Department of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and natural gas preleasing, leasing and related activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area for any lands located outside Sale 181, as identified in the final Outer Continental Shelf 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program, 1997–2002.” Section 106 prohibits funds in the title from being used by “the Department of the Interior to conduct oil and natural gas preleasing, leasing and related activities in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic planning areas.”

Additionally, the amendment inserts the word “oil” after the work “offshore” in Section 104. Section 104 prohibits funds in the title from being used “by the Department of the Interior for the conduct of offshore preleasing, leasing and related activities placed under restriction in the President’s moratorium statement of June 12, 1998, in the areas of northern, central, and southern California; the North Atlantic; Washington and Oregon; and the eastern Gulf of Mexico south of 26 degrees north latitude and east of 86 degrees west longitude.”

“Page 53, line 12, insert ‘oil’ after ‘offshore’. Page 53, line 20, strike ‘and natural gas’.  
Page 54, line 3, strike “‘and natural gas’.”

**Solis.** Prohibits the EPA from using funds “to accept, consider or rely upon third party intentional dosing human studies for pesticides; or to conduct intentional dosing human studies for pesticides.” According to the amendment’s sponsor, the “pesticide industry is pursuing these studies primarily to evade regulatory safeguards designed to ensure that children, infants, and fetuses are protected from the effects of toxic pesticides.”

**Hastings.** Prohibits the use of funds to be used in violation of Executive Order 12898 (*Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*) or to delay the implementation of that Order.

President Clinton's 1994 EO 12898 required each federal agency "to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing...disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." The bill's sponsor cites the EPA's Inspector General's statement concluding that the agency "has not fully implemented Executive Order 12898 nor consistently integrated environmental justice into its day-to-day operation" and offers this amendment to "show Congress' support for the original intention of EO 12898 and the identification of these communities so that we can work together to ensure that minority and low-income populations do not continue to be the unintended victims of poor environmental policies."

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