

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FRANKEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

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 “Stop Arctic Ocean
5 Drilling Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that, as of the date
8 of enactment of this Act—

9 (1) global climate change is occurring due
10 largely to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse
11 gases and will continue to pose ongoing risks and

1 challenges to the people and the Government of the
2 United States;

3 (2) the evidence of impacts and dangers of cli-
4 mate change are supported by numerous reports and
5 panels, such as the 2014 National Climate Assess-
6 ment, the United States Global Change Research
7 Program, and the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review
8 of the Department of Defense;

9 (3) the average temperature in the United
10 States during the past decade was 0.8 degree Cel-
11 sius (1.5 degree Fahrenheit) warmer than the 1901-
12 1960 average, and the last decade was the warmest
13 on record both in the United States and globally;

14 (4) a global temperature increase of 2 degree
15 Celsius will lead to increased droughts, rising seas,
16 mass extinctions, heat waves, desertification,
17 wildfires, and acidifying oceans;

18 (5) delaying action on climate change will result
19 in severe economic losses, and global mitigation costs
20 increase by approximately 40 percent for each dec-
21 ade of delay;

22 (6) at least 80 percent of the carbon from
23 known fossil fuel reserves must not be released to
24 the atmosphere to have an 80 percent chance of
25 avoiding the worst effects of climate change stem-

1 issue or renew a lease or any other authorization for the
2 exploration, development, or production of oil, natural gas,
3 or any other mineral in the Arctic Ocean, including the
4 Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas.”.