

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1312

To modernize Federal policies regarding the supply and distribution of energy
in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO,
Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FLAKE,
Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To modernize Federal policies regarding the supply and dis-
tribution of energy in the United States, and for other
purposes.

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 “Energy Supply and
5 Distribution Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to adopt certain recommendations of the
2 Quadrennial Energy Review of 2015;

3 (2) to enhance the integration of energy mar-
4 kets;

5 (3) to improve the collection of energy data and
6 analysis; and

7 (4) to promote the production and distribution
8 of energy in the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (a) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator”
12 means the Administrator of the Energy Information Ad-
13 ministration.

14 (b) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the
15 Secretary of Energy.

16 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO DOMESTIC EN-
17 ERGY.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that the production and
19 distribution of energy in the United States requires access
20 to infrastructure and markets.

21 **SEC. 5. ENERGY SECURITY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

23 (1) shall collaborate with the heads of other
24 Federal agencies to improve the conceptual develop-
25 ment of energy security; and

1 (2) may consult with allies and key trading
2 partners of the United States with respect to energy
3 security issues resulting from changes in the energy
4 marketplace.

5 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—At a minimum, the Secretary
6 shall ensure that, as part of the collaboration required
7 under subsection (a)(1), the following are considered:

8 (1) The development of flexible, transparent,
9 and competitive energy markets, including natural
10 gas and oil markets

11 (2) The diversification of energy fuels, sources,
12 and routes.

13 (3) The encouragement of indigenous sources of
14 energy supply.

15 **SEC. 6. SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE.**

16 The Secretary shall lead an interagency effort to im-
17 prove and coordinate data collection and analytical and
18 modeling capabilities for energy distribution on shared en-
19 ergy infrastructure.

20 **SEC. 7. ENERGY MARKET INTEGRATION.**

21 The Secretary shall coordinate the training of, and
22 enhanced dialogue among, technical staff in applicable
23 Federal agencies that are responsible for evaluating and
24 implementing cross-border energy projects.

1 **SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO HYDROCARBON**
2 **PRODUCTION.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that, as stated in the An-
4 nual Energy Outlook of 2015 of the Energy Information
5 Administration, growth in crude oil and dry natural gas
6 production varies significantly across oil and natural gas
7 supply regions—

8 (1) forcing shifts in crude oil and natural gas
9 flows between regions of the United States; and

10 (2) requiring investment in or realignment of
11 pipelines and other midstream infrastructure.

12 **SEC. 9. ENERGY DATA COLLABORATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall collabo-
14 rate with the appropriate officials in Canada and Mexico,
15 as determined by the Administrator, to improve—

16 (1) the quality and transparency of North
17 American energy data through reconciliation of data
18 on energy trade flows among the United States,
19 Canada, and Mexico;

20 (2) the extension of energy mapping capabilities
21 in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

22 (3) the development of common energy data
23 terminology among the United States, Canada, and
24 Mexico.

25 (b) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Administrator shall
26 periodically inform the Committee on Energy and Natural

1 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy
2 and Commerce of the House of Representatives regard-
3 ing—

4 (1) the extent to which energy data is being
5 shared under subsection (a); and

6 (2) whether forward-looking projections for re-
7 gional energy flows are improving in accuracy as a
8 result of the energy data sharing under that sub-
9 section.

10 **SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO PROCESSED**
11 **CONDENSATE.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that processed condensate
13 is a petroleum product.

14 **SEC. 11. DEVELOPMENT OF DEFINITION OF CONDENSATE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

16 (1) develop a standard definition of the term
17 “condensate”; and

18 (2) advise relevant Federal agencies to adopt
19 that definition for the purpose of clarifying energy
20 policy in the United States.

21 (b) OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY ASSESSMENT.—The
22 Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy may assess the suit-
23 ability of condensate separately from crude oil for use in
24 strategic reserves, as determined necessary by the Sec-
25 retary.

1 (c) ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION DATA
2 COLLECTION.—The Administrator may collect data re-
3 garding condensate and crude oil production in the United
4 States.

5 **SEC. 12. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ASSESSMENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall
7 direct the appropriate agencies within the Department of
8 the Interior to assess condensate separately from crude
9 oil, in accordance with this section.

10 (b) OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE.—
11 The Director of the Office of Natural Resources Revenue
12 may collect data regarding condensate separately from
13 crude oil produced in the United States.

14 (c) BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT.—
15 The Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
16 may estimate condensate separately from crude oil as part
17 of the resource assessments regarding geological forma-
18 tions in the United States.

19 (d) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Di-
20 rector of the United States Geological Survey may include
21 estimates of condensate separately from crude oil as part
22 of the resource assessments regarding geological forma-
23 tions in the United States.

1 **SEC. 13. ACCESS TO MARKETS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
3 sion of law, to promote the efficient exploration, produc-
4 tion, storage, supply, and distribution of energy resources,
5 any domestic crude oil or condensate (other than crude
6 oil stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve) may be ex-
7 ported without a Federal license to countries not subject
8 to sanctions by the United States.

9 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section limits
10 the authority of the President under the Constitution, the
11 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50
13 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), or part B of title II of the Energy
14 Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.) to
15 prohibit exports.