

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SANDERS) 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 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN ARCTIC**
7 **AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.**

8 Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
9 (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(q) PROHIBITION OF OIL AND GAS LEASING IN
2 ARCTIC AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF ARCTIC.—In this sub-
4 section, the term ‘Arctic’ has the meaning given the
5 term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Pol-
6 icy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

7 “(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of this Act or any other law, the Secretary
9 of the Interior shall not issue or extend a lease or
10 any other authorization for the exploration, develop-
11 ment, or production of oil, natural gas, or any other
12 mineral on Arctic areas of the outer Continental
13 Shelf.”.