

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**A BILL**

To prohibit the export of liquefied natural gas and petroleum products to certain countries.

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 “Protecting American  
5 Households From Rising Energy Costs Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON EXPORTS OF LIQUEFIED NAT-**  
7 **URAL GAS AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO**  
8 **CERTAIN COUNTRIES.**

9 (a) PROHIBITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
10 vision of law, unless a waiver has been issued under sub-

1 section (b), no person or entity may export liquefied nat-  
2 ural gas or petroleum products—

3 (1) to any entity that is under the ownership or  
4 control of the Chinese Communist Party, the Peo-  
5 ple’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the  
6 Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Is-  
7 lamic Republic of Iran; or

8 (2) except on the condition that such liquefied  
9 natural gas or petroleum product will not be ex-  
10 ported to the People’s Republic of China, the Rus-  
11 sian Federation, the Democratic People’s Republic  
12 of Korea, or the Islamic Republic of Iran.

13 (b) WAIVER.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—On application by an ex-  
15 porter, the Secretary of Energy may waive, prior to  
16 the date of the applicable contract, the prohibitions  
17 described in subsection (a) with respect to the sale  
18 of liquefied natural gas or petroleum products.

19 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Energy  
20 may issue a waiver under this subsection only if the  
21 Secretary of Energy determines that the waiver is in  
22 the interest of the national security of the United  
23 States.

24 (3) APPLICATIONS.—An exporter seeking a  
25 waiver under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-

1       retary of Energy an application by such date, in  
2       such form, and containing such information as the  
3       Secretary of Energy may require.

4           (4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15  
5       days after issuing a waiver under this subsection,  
6       the Secretary of Energy shall provide a copy of the  
7       waiver to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
8       sources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy  
9       and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

10 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.**

11       (a) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for a per-  
12       son to violate, attempt to violate, conspire to violate, or  
13       cause a violation of any prohibition of, or any waiver, li-  
14       cense, order, or regulation issued pursuant to this Act.

15       (b) CIVIL PENALTY.—The Secretary of Energy may  
16       impose a civil penalty on any person who commits an un-  
17       lawful act described in subsection (a) in an amount not  
18       to exceed the greater of—

19           (1) \$250,000,000; and

20           (2) an amount that is twice the amount of the  
21       transaction that is the basis of the violation with re-  
22       spect to which the penalty is imposed.

23       (c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—A person who knowingly  
24       commits, knowingly attempts to commit, or knowingly  
25       conspires to commit, or aids or abets in the commission

1 of, an unlawful act described in subsection (a) shall be  
2 fined not more than \$100,000,000, imprisoned for not  
3 more than 20 years, or both.