

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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

To prohibit the United States Government from funding Venezuela’s oil  
and petroleum infrastructure, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN  
HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following  
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To prohibit the United States Government from funding  
Venezuela’s oil and petroleum infrastructure, 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 “Protecting Taxpayers  
5       from Risky Investments in Venezuela Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7       In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
8       mittees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
2 Senate;

3 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
4 Senate;

5 (3) the Committee on the Budget of the Senate;

6 (4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
7 House of Representatives;

8 (5) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
9 House of Representatives; and

10 (6) the Committee on the Budget of the House  
11 of Representatives.

12 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO**  
13 **SUPPORT VENEZUELA'S OIL AND PETRO-**  
14 **LEUM INFRASTRUCTURE.**

15 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection  
16 (b), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made  
17 available for any department or agency of the United  
18 States Government or for any account owned, controlled,  
19 or accessible by the United States, or a person acting on  
20 behalf of the United States, may be used to finance, sub-  
21 sidize, insure, guarantee, contract for, or otherwise sup-  
22 port the development, maintenance, or expansion of oil in-  
23 frastructure or the petroleum sector in Venezuela, includ-  
24 ing—

1           (1) the construction, installation, manufacture,  
2           development, modernization, repair, or permanent  
3           improvement of any oil or gas infrastructure in Ven-  
4           ezuela;

5           (2) the purchase of real property, including a  
6           reimbursement for any such purchase;

7           (3) insurance costs, loan guarantees, tax incen-  
8           tives, and royalty relief; and

9           (4) any payments made to individuals or do-  
10          mestic, international, or multinational corporations

11          (5) any form of advocacy, promotion, or sup-  
12          port provided by officers or employees of the United  
13          States Government for the benefit of Venezuela's oil  
14          infrastructure or petroleum sector, including at  
15          international financial institutions, multilateral orga-  
16          nizations, or diplomatic forums.

17          (b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection  
18          (a) shall not apply to any expenditure explicitly authorized  
19          by an Act of Congress after the date of the enactment  
20          of this Act.

21      **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.**

22          Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
23          ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
24          of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-  
25          sional committees that—

- 1           (1) describes any expenditures or activities re-
- 2           lated to Venezuela's oil infrastructure or petroleum
- 3           sector; and
- 4           (2) certifies compliance with this Act.