

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
117-50
OFFERED BY MR. BUDD OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 15, after line 7, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 502. UNLEASH AMERICAN DRILLING.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS TO THE MINERAL LEASING
3 ACT.—Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30
4 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
6 graph (4); and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(3) DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON PERMITS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
11 issue a decision on a permit not later than 90
12 days after the applicant for a permit has sub-
13 mitted a complete application if the Secretary—

14 “(i) has not yet issued or deferred the
15 permit under paragraph (2) within the 30-
16 day period specified in such paragraph; or

17 “(ii) has deferred the permit under
18 paragraph (2)(B), and there are no steps
19 the applicant is required to take for the

1 permit to be issued pursuant to paragraph
2 (2)(B)(i).

3 “(B) MANDATORY ISSUANCE.—If the Sec-
4 retary does not issue a decision under subpara-
5 graph (A) within the 90-day period specified in
6 such subparagraph, the permit shall be consid-
7 ered issued.”.

8 (b) BLM REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PERMITTING
9 BACKLOG.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall
11 submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and En-
12 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
13 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
14 Senate a report on the backlog of applications for permits
15 to drill, including—

16 (1) the extent of the backlog;

17 (2) reasons for the backlog, including—

18 (A) limitations on resources; and

19 (B) statutory and administrative barriers
20 to clearing the backlog;

21 (3) steps the Bureau of Land Management can
22 take to clear the backlog; and

1 (4) recommendations to Congress for financial
2 assistance or statutory actions to help clear the
3 backlog.

