AMENDMENT NO._______ Calendar No._______

Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program relating to streamlining review and approval of applications for permits to drill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.

(no.)___________

To provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

2 SEC. 31. PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (referred to in this section as the “Director”), shall establish a pilot program in 1 State with at least 2,000 oil and gas drilling spacing units (as defined under State law), in which—

4 (1) 25 percent or less of the minerals are owned

5 or held in trust by the Federal Government; and
(2) there is no surface land owned or held in trust by the Federal Government.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Director shall identify and implement ways to streamline the review and approval of Applications for Permits to Drill for oil and gas drilling spacing units of the State in order to achieve a processing time for those oil and gas drilling spacing units similar to that of spacing units that require an Application for Permit to Drill and are not part of the pilot program in the same State.

(c) FUNDING.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, and for a period of 3 years thereafter, to carry out the pilot program efficiently, the Director may fund up to 10 full-time equivalents at appropriate field offices using fees collected under section 35(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(d)) and not otherwise expended.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot program.
Secretary

(c) The Director of the Pilot Project established by this section may waive the requirement for an A-P-D- if the Director determines that the mineral interest of the United States in the spacing units in lands covered by this section are adequately protected if otherwise in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and lease terms.