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Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA) introduced new legislation, along with 16 Democratic co-sponsors, that would prohibit new drilling leases in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and new coal leases on federal land. The OCS is defined as all submerged lands and seabeds that lie between the seaward extent of state jurisdiction and federal jurisdiction, typically between 3 and 200 miles offshore.

The bill, H.R. 4535, is calling for a change in the nation’s oil and gas leasing program in an effort to combat climate change. Crafted with the help of many environmental advocates, the legislation claims to help meet the goals of the Paris climate deal. Proponents of the bill praise the effort to fight climate change and support Obama’s climate agenda, while opponents claim the bill will increase costs and leave thousands without jobs.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources where it will need to be agreed upon before it can reach the House floor. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and 6 other senators introduced a Senate version of the bill last year.

Sources: E&E News, Congress.gov

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