

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9957

To direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a refined fuel storage reserve in the Western United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Ms. MALOY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a refined fuel storage reserve in the Western United States.

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 “Western Refined Fuel
5 Reserve Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. WESTERN REFINED FUEL STORAGE RESERVE**
7 **STUDY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy,

1 in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security
2 and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Manage-
3 ment Agency, and other stakeholders, shall complete a
4 study, subject to subsection (b), to guide the establishment
5 of a Western refined fuel storage reserve in—

6 (1) one of the Western States;

7 (2) a salt cavern formation; and

8 (3) to the maximum extent practicable, a cen-
9 tralized location among the Western States with im-
10 mediate and reliable connectivity to existing rail and
11 highway infrastructure.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a)
13 shall include—

14 (1) an examination of—

15 (A) potential locations that a Western re-
16 fined fuel storage reserve may be established,
17 taking into consideration the unique geography
18 of the West;

19 (B) specific infrastructure requirements for
20 the establishment and operation of a Western
21 refined fuel storage reserve, taking into consid-
22 eration the lack of pipeline infrastructure and
23 connectivity between refinery hubs and major
24 cities within the Western States;

1 (C) the vulnerability of the refined fuel
2 supply chains to natural or manmade disasters
3 that result in an extended disruption of refinery
4 operations within the Western States;

5 (D) the economic feasibility of establishing,
6 operating, and maintaining a Western refined
7 fuel storage reserve;

8 (E) existing salt cavern formations in
9 Western States that are actively hosting or
10 could host a refined fuel storage reserve; and

11 (F) the quantity and scale of existing re-
12 fined fuel storage reserves containing petroleum
13 products within the Western States; and

14 (2) the identification of potential additional
15 benefits to the energy security or emergency pre-
16 paredness of the United States by establishing a
17 Western refined fuel storage reserve, including—

18 (A) economic benefits of any identified po-
19 tential Western refined fuel storage reserve site;
20 and

21 (B) emergency response advantages of an
22 identified refined fuel storage reserve.

23 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days
24 after the date on which the Secretary of Energy completes
25 the study under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy

1 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Se-
2 curity and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
3 Management Agency, submit to Congress a report, based
4 on the results of such study—

5 (1) recommending, with respect to authorizing
6 and funding the establishment of a Western refined
7 fuel storage reserve as a part of the Strategic Petro-
8 leum Reserve system—

9 (A) regulatory requirements for the poten-
10 tial establishment of such refined fuel storage
11 reserve;

12 (B) a location for established such refined
13 fuel storage reserve;

14 (C) the utilization of existing private sector
15 facilities, if applicable, for the establishment of
16 such refined fuel storage reserve;

17 (D) how such a refined fuel storage reserve
18 should be operated, such as what fuels and
19 quantities should be stored, fuel purchases, con-
20 ditions triggering fuel withdrawals, and any
21 other operational recommendations; and

22 (E) strategies for partnering with other
23 Federal agencies, States, and local governments
24 to provide fuel storage for emergency uses in
25 the Western United States; and

1 (2) on the projected costs of establishing a
2 Western refined fuel storage reserve.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) PETROLEUM PRODUCT.—The term “petro-
5 leum product” has the meaning given such term in
6 section 3 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 6202).

8 (2) REFINED FUEL STORAGE RESERVE.—The
9 term “refined fuel storage reserve” means a storage
10 facility that—

11 (A) is a salt cavern formation; and

12 (B) stores refined petroleum products.

13 (3) STORAGE FACILITY.—The term “storage fa-
14 cility” has the meaning given such term in section
15 152 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42
16 U.S.C. 6232).

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