

8. AN AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE  
MELANCON, CHARLIE OF LOUISIANA OR HIS DESIGNEE,  
DEBATABLE FOR 10 MINUTES

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3534  
OFFERED BY MR. MELANCON OF LOUISIANA**

At the end of title II add the following:

**Subtitle C—Limitation on  
Moratorium**

**SEC. 231. LIMITATION OF MORATORIUM ON CERTAIN PER-  
MITTING AND DRILLING ACTIVITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The moratorium set forth in the decision memorandum of the Secretary of the Interior entitled “Decision memorandum regarding the suspension of certain offshore permitting and drilling activities on the Outer Continental Shelf” and dated July 12, 2010, and any suspension of operations issued in connection with the moratorium, shall not apply to an application for a permit to drill submitted on or after the effective date of this Act if the Secretary determines that the applicant—

(1) has complied with the notice entitled “National Notice to Lessees and Operators of Federal Oil and Gas Leases, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)” dated June 8, 2010 (NTL No. 2010–N05) and the notice entitled “National Notice to Lessees and Operators of Federal Oil and Gas Leases, Outer

1 Continental Shelf (OCS)” dated June 18, 2010  
2 (NTL No. 2010–N06);

3 (2) has complied with additional safety meas-  
4 ures recommended by the Secretary as of the date  
5 of the enactment of this Act; and

6 (3) has completed all required safety inspec-  
7 tions.

8 (b) DETERMINATION ON PERMIT.—Not later than 30  
9 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a deter-  
10 mination that an applicant has complied with paragraphs  
11 (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
12 make a determination on whether to issue the permit.

13 (c) NO SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION.—No Fed-  
14 eral entity shall suspend the active consideration of, or  
15 preparatory work for, permits required to resume or ad-  
16 vance activities suspended in connection with the morato-  
17 rium.

18 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than October  
19 31, 2010, the Secretary shall report to the House Com-  
20 mittee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee  
21 on Energy and Natural Resources on the status of (1)  
22 the collection and analysis of evidence regarding the poten-  
23 tial causes of the April 20, 2010 explosion and sinking  
24 of the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig, including  
25 information collected by the Presidential Commission and

1 other investigations (2) implementation of safety reforms  
2 described in the May 27, 2010, Departmental report enti-  
3 tled "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development  
4 on the Outer Continental Shelf," (3) the ability of opera-  
5 tors in the Gulf of Mexico to respond effectively to an oil  
6 spill in light of the Deepwater Horizon incident; and (4)  
7 industry and government efforts to engineer, design, con-  
8 struct and assemble wild well intervention and blowout  
9 containment resources necessary to contain an uncon-  
10 trolled release of hydrocarbons in deep water should an-  
11 other blowout occur.

12 (f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing herein affects the  
13 Secretary's authority to suspend offshore drilling permit-  
14 ting and drilling operations based on the threat of signifi-  
15 cant, irreparable or immediate harm or damage to life,  
16 property, or the marine, coastal or human environment  
17 pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43  
18 U.S.C. 133 et. seq.).

