

NDAА Amendment 926

Sponsors: Fetterman, Ernst, Manchin, Cruz

Summary: This measure prohibits entities owned or controlled by China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea from purchasing oil from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and prohibits exports of SPR oil to those countries. It also establishes a process to waive these restrictions for sales that are in the interest of U.S. national security.

Background: Following the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, the United States established the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and placed a ban on exporting U.S. crude oil. Congress lifted that ban in 2015 without making an exception for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). Because the U.S. Department of Energy is required under current law to conduct a competitive bidding process and automatically award SPR sales contracts to the highest bidder, several companies owned by and affiliated with adversarial nations have won contracts under both President Biden's and President Trump's administrations. The SPR was originally intended to help the U.S. and our allies through difficult times, and this bill would hone the SPR back towards its intended mission by ensuring the U.S. is not selling our petroleum reserves to China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea.

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Status: A similar measure introduced by Representative Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) unanimously passed the House in March 2023 and by voice vote as a part of the House FY24 NDAA amendment process.