

Did you know that the public lands which are already open for oil and gas development hold 10 times the amount of economically recoverable oil that could be produced if we allowed for drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

Rather than giving yet another gift to big oil companies by opening up more lands to drilling, as President Bush wants to do, oil companies should start drilling on the areas they already lease.

There are 68 million acres of federal land already leased by oil companies for energy production now but sitting idle. That's 75% of the leased territory that isn't being used. Rather than opening up fragile ecosystems to the potentially devastating impact of drilling, oil companies should drill in territories already available to them.

On Thursday the House voted on the [Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands \(DRILL\) Act](#) , which would have increased domestic oil supply by:

1. speeding the development of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) by requiring the Secretary of Interior to offer at least one lease sale annually in the NPR-A.
2. reinstating a ban on the foreign export of Alaskan oil.
3. incorporating the 'Use It or Lose It' legislation, which simply requires oil producers to drill on the leases they already have or relinquish them so that another company can produce the oil there.
4. calling on the President to use the powers of his office to facilitate the completion of oil pipelines into the NPR-A and to facilitate the construction of a Alaska natural gas pipeline to the continental United States to move the product to market.

Unfortunately, Big Oil's allies in the House brought that bill down, and big oil companies and their allies in Congress are making misleading claims in order to sway our energy policies away from renewable energy.

[Get the facts.](#)