

the USA Today editorial said, because I think it sums it up beautifully and it doesn't come up with the same conclusion that the Senator from Texas, Mr. GRAMM, comes up with. It comes up with another conclusion, and that is, "Industry's effort to avoid paying full fees hurts taxpayers and others."

Since 1920 when Congress passed the Mineral Leasing Act, the MMS has been acting to set the rules that guide the payments of royalties. So, now, all of a sudden we have a move to say this is wrong. I think it is kind of interesting, all of a sudden it is wrong, something that has been in place since 1920. This is what the MMS is supposed to do. So I think this editorial really says it.

Imagine being able to compute your own rent payments and grocery bills, giving yourself a 3 percent to 10 percent discount off the market price. Over time, that would add up to really big bucks. And imagine having the political clout to make sure that nothing threatened to change that cozy arrangement.

And they basically say, "Taxpayers have been getting the unfair end of this deal for far too long."

Mr. President, I say to Senators, we have an opportunity to end this cozy deal today. I know some of my colleagues feel they need more time, they want to work on a more fair way to collect these royalties. I cannot imagine, as someone who knows supply and demand—I am an economics major, I was a stockbroker—it is pretty simple. You have the market price. Pay the royalty based on the market price. This is a capitalistic system. We do not have industry executives sitting in and deciding what the market price is in the dead of night in the back of their corporate headquarters. These 5 percent of oil companies, the oil giants, are the ones who are getting away with thievery. Let's end it now. Support this amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, has all time now been used on this amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All but 8 seconds.

Mr. GORTON. We yield back that 8 seconds.

What now is the order before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is set aside until 5:50, at which time there will be 10 minutes equally divided between the parties for debate.

AMENDMENT NO. 3581

Mr. GORTON. Then what is the matter before the Senate at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The matter before the Senate at this time is the Daschle amendment to S. 2237.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. GORTON. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Objection is heard.

The assistant legislative clerk continued to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 3]

Allard	Frist	Leahy
Ashcroft	Gorton	Lott
Baucus	Gramm	Lugar
Bond	Gregg	McCain
Boxer	Hagel	McConnell
Burns	Harkin	Mikulski
Conrad	Hutchinson	Murkowski
Craig	Inhofe	Reed
Daschle	Jeffords	Roberts
Domenici	Kempthorne	Santorum
Dorgan	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Faircloth	Kyl	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present. The clerk will call the names of absent Senators.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the attendance of absent Senators.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Mississippi.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BUMPERS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Abraham	Bond	Cleland
Akaka	Boxer	Coats
Allard	Brownback	Cochran
Ashcroft	Bryan	Collins
Baucus	Burns	Conrad
Bennett	Byrd	Coverdell
Biden	Campbell	Craig
Bingaman	Chafee	D'Amato

Daschle	Inhofe	Murray
DeWine	Inouye	Nickles
Dodd	Jeffords	Reed
Domenici	Johnson	Reid
Dorgan	Kempthorne	Robb
Durbin	Kennedy	Roberts
Enzi	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Faircloth	Kerry	Roth
Feingold	Kohl	Santorum
Feinstein	Kyl	Sarbanes
Ford	Landrieu	Smith (NH)
Frist	Lautenberg	Smith (OR)
Glenn	Leahy	Snowe
Gorton	Levin	Specter
Graham	Lieberman	Stevens
Gramm	Lott	Thomas
Grams	Lugar	Thompson
Grassley	Mack	Thurmond
Gregg	McCain	Torricelli
Hagel	McConnell	Warner
Harkin	Mikulski	Wellstone
Hatch	Moseley-Braun	Wyden
Hutchinson	Moynihan	
Hutchison	Murkowski	

NAYS—1

Breaux

NOT VOTING—5

Bumpers	Hollings	Shelby
Helms	Sessions	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. With the addition of Senators voting who did not answer the quorum call, a quorum is now present.

The majority leader.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate has been on this Interior bill now for 6 session days and has not really scratched the surface of the bill. This is the 11th appropriations bill that the Senate has considered in preparation for the end of the fiscal year, which is September 30.

Members will recall last week we spent most of our time on the campaign finance reform issue. This week there have been farm amendments as well as other amendments that are unrelated to Interior that are waiting in the wings. It looks like it will be very hard to keep focused on the Interior appropriations bill itself and get it completed. And, of course, that will affect the next two appropriations bills.

AMENDMENT NO. 3581

I offered a consent agreement to debate the pending amendment for 2 hours. That is the amendment that Senator DASCHLE offered, with no action occurring, and then lay aside the amendment to consider a Kempthorne amendment relative to the Endangered Species Act. I understand some discussions are still going back and forth on the ESA amendment. That agreement has not been worked out and there are various reasons that it has been objected to.

Therefore, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending amendment, 3581.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.