

**Testimony of Congressman Jon Runyan**  
**House Committee on Rules**  
**May 10, 2011**

My amendment allows states to “opt-out” of five year plans for lease sales if the lease lies within a state’s administrative boundaries.

The “opt-out” would be triggered by a state having a successful referendum vote of disapproval.

After passage the Secretary of the Interior would be prohibited from conducting lease sales in the given State’s administrative boundary for the remainder of the five year plan.

I urge my colleagues to take note of the fact that the “opt-out” can only be triggered by a referendum vote by the people of a given state, not solely by a Governor or State legislature. This will allow the true will of the people to be known, and prevent political grandstanding on the issue.

I am and always have been a supporter of an all of the above energy strategy. There is no silver bullet that will end our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce the price of gasoline. We need to do more of everything, whether it’s more effectively harnessing our domestic sources of fossil fuels, expanding the use of renewable energy sources, use of clean coal, or the expanded use of nuclear power, we can and should do more. My amendment simply gives the people living closest to our energy reserves a voice in the debate.