

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

At the end of subtitle A of title II, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES IN IM-**
2 **PORTANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS OF OUTER**
3 **CONTINENTAL SHELF.**

4 Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
5 (43 U.S.C. 1344) is further amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting “sub-
7 ject to subsection (j),” before “the best available sci-
8 entific”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(j) PROHIBITION ON OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES IN
12 IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL AREAS OF OUTER CONTI-
13 NENTAL SHELF.—The Secretary may not approve for in-
14 clusion in an oil and gas leasing program under this sec-
15 tion any area of the outer Continental Shelf that, by itself
16 or in a network, has distinguishing ecological characteris-
17 tics, is important for maintaining habitat heterogeneity or
18 the viability of a species, or contributes disproportionately
19 to the health of an ecosystem, including its biodiversity,

1 function, structure, or resilience. In designating an impor-
2 tant ecological area of outer Continental Shelf, the Sec-
3 retary should give particular consideration to—

4 “(1) areas of high productivity or diversity;

5 “(2) areas that are important for feeding, mi-
6 gration, or the lifecycle of species; and

7 “(3) areas of biogenic habitat, structure form-
8 ing habitat, or habitat for endangered or threatened
9 species.”.

