

# House Democrats Call for Overhaul of Oil-Leasing Rules

Taxpayers lose billions each year in royalties generated from oil and gas leases on public lands while fossil fuel developers reap profits at their expense, but Democrats have pushed legislation that would overhaul leasing laws that have not been updated in a century, **reports** Courthouse News Service.

For the eighth consecutive year, the Government Accountability Office placed the Interior Department's oil and gas leasing program on its high risk list of federal programs mottled with waste, fraud and abuse.

That report found that "Interior's methods to determine and collect royalties hasn't been updated since 1920, and with the coal, gas and oil industry in far different shape today than it was a century ago, the time to develop a system that meets energy needs while delivering fair market returns is long overdue," writes Courthouse News' **Brandi Buchman**.

**Read the Courthouse News article.**