

Helium Privatization Act of 1996

The **Helium Privatization Act of 1996** is a United States statute that ordered the US government to sell much of the National Helium Reserve. The 104th Congress passed the Act of Congress presenting the legislation to the United States President on September 30, 1996. President Bill Clinton enacted the federal statute into law on October 9, 1996.^[1]

The law was described by critics as a "fiasco" due to the formula-based sale price being significantly lower than the market price for helium.^[2] The bill was amended in 2013 to use an auction to sell helium.^[3]

References

1. Clinton, William J. (October 9, 1996). "Statement on Signing the Helium Privatization Act of 1996 - October 9, 1996" (<https://archive.org/details/4733170.1996.002.umich.edu/page/1796>). *Internet Archive*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service. p. 1796.
2. Yglesias, Matthew (14 May 2012). "America's Helium Privatization Fiasco" (http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2012/05/14/america_s_helium_privatization_fiasco.html). *Slate*. Retrieved 25 February 2018.
3. Cho, Adrian (8 July 2015). "New U.S. rules on helium sales said to stifle competition" (<https://www.science.org/content/article/new-us-rules-helium-sales-said-stifle-competition>). *Science* | AAAS. Retrieved 25 February 2018.

External links

- H.R. 4168 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/104th-congress/house-bill/4168>)
- Helium Reserve Committee (May 18, 2000). *The Impact of Selling the Federal Helium Reserve* (https://books.google.com/books?id=_n7eDPEITYYC). Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press. doi:10.17226/9860 (<https://doi.org/10.17226/9860>). ISBN 978-0309171878. OCLC 44547162 (<https://search.worldcat.org/oclc/44547162>).
- National Research Council (June 30, 2010). *Selling the Nation's Helium Reserve* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=AHXHnEeRc-0C>). Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press. doi:10.17226/12844 (<https://doi.org/10.17226/12844>). ISBN 978-0309157537. OCLC 587078069 (<https://search.worldcat.org/oclc/587078069>).
- Gage, B.D.; Driskill, D.R. (July 1998). "Helium Resources of the United States - 1997" (<https://archive.org/details/heliumres>)

Helium Privatization Act of 1996

Long title	Act to amend the Helium Act to authorize the Secretary to enter into agreements with private parties for the recovery and disposal of helium on Federal lands, and for other purposes.
Enacted by	the <u>104th United States Congress</u>
Effective	October 9, 1996
Citations	
Public law	104-273 (https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-104publ273/pdf/PLAW-104publ273.pdf)
<u>Statutes at Large</u>	110 Stat. 3315 (https://legislink.org/us/stat-110-3315)
Codification	
Acts amended	<u>Helium Act of 1925</u>
Titles amended	<u>50 U.S.C.: War and National Defense</u>
U.S.C. sections amended	<u>50 U.S.C. ch. 10</u> (https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/50/c-hapter-10) § 167 et seq.

Legislative history

- **Introduced** in the House as H.R. 4168 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/104th-congress/house-bill/4168>) by Christopher Cox (R-CA) on September 25, 1996
- **Committee consideration** by House Resources
- **Passed the House** on September 26, 1996 (Passed Voice Vote)
- **Passed the Senate** on September 28, 1996 (Passed Unanimous Consent)

ourceso00gage). *Internet Archive*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior.

▪ **Signed into law** by President Bill Clinton on October 9, 1996

- Gage, B.D.; Driskill, D.R. (December 2001). *Helium Resources of the United States - 2001*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior.
[hdl:2027/mdp.39015053944610](https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015053944610) (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027%2Fmdp.39015053944610>).

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