



(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of a United States and Venezuela energy deal, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of a United States and Venezuela energy deal, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Venezuela Oil Proceeds
5 Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) on January 6, 2026, President Trump an-
2 nounced a United States-Venezuela energy deal
3 under which the United States will market and sell
4 Venezuelan oil and deposit proceeds into “U.S.-con-
5 trolled” accounts;

6 (2) according to the fact sheet of the Depart-
7 ment of Energy issued on January 7, 2026, on the
8 United States-Venezuela energy deal—

9 (A) the Federal Government has engaged
10 commodity marketers and banks to execute and
11 provide financial support for the crude oil and
12 crude products sales;

13 (B) all proceeds from the sale of Ven-
14 ezuelan crude oil and oil products will first set-
15 tle in United States controlled accounts at for-
16 eign banks “to guarantee the legitimacy and in-
17 tegrity of the ultimate distribution of proceeds”;
18 and

19 (C) the funds will be disbursed “for the
20 benefit of the American people and the Ven-
21 ezuelan people at the discretion of the U.S. gov-
22 ernment” and will continue indefinitely;

23 (3) under the United States-Venezuela energy
24 deal, the United States is selectively rolling back
25 sanctions to enable the transport and sale of Ven-

1 ezuelan crude and oil products to global markets,
2 and the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the De-
3 partment of the Treasury is also issuing new licenses
4 for certain companies to import and export Ven-
5 ezuelan oil; and

6 (4) during testimony to the Committee on For-
7 eign Relations of the Senate on January 28, 2026,
8 Secretary of State Marco Rubio said there were
9 plans for an “audit process” to review expenditures
10 from an account in Qatar set up under the United
11 States-Venezuela energy deal, but Secretary Rubio
12 added that “We haven’t finalized what that audit
13 process would be.”.

14 **SEC. 3. GAO AUDIT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
17 of the United States (referred to in this section as the
18 “Comptroller General”) shall initiate an audit of the
19 United States-Venezuela energy deal announced on Janu-
20 ary 6, 2026, including the activities of the Department
21 of State, the Department of Energy, the Department of
22 the Treasury, and any other Federal Government agen-
23 cies, employees, or contractors or entities funded by the
24 United States involved in implementing the deal.

1 (b) INTERIM BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days
2 after the date on which the audit required under sub-
3 section (a) is completed, the Comptroller General shall
4 provide to the chair and ranking member of each com-
5 mittee and subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of
6 Representatives and the Senate a briefing on preliminary
7 findings, scope, and any identified risks of fraud, abuse,
8 or conflicts of interest identified while conducting the
9 audit.

10 (c) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—In carrying out
11 this section, the Comptroller General shall notify the chair
12 and ranking member of each committee and subcommittee
13 of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the
14 Senate as soon as practicable if the Comptroller General
15 determines that access to information has been unreason-
16 ably delayed or denied by any Federal department, agency,
17 employee, or contractor or entity funded by the United
18 States involved in implementing the United States-Ven-
19 ezuela energy deal described in subsection (a).

20 (d) REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
22 the date on which the audit required under sub-
23 section (a) is completed, the Comptroller General
24 shall—

1 (A) submit to Congress a report on that
2 audit, which shall include—

3 (i) a detailed description of the find-
4 ings and conclusions of the Comptroller
5 General with respect to the audit that is
6 the subject of the report; and

7 (ii) recommendations for legislative or
8 administrative action, as the Comptroller
9 General determines to be appropriate; and

10 (B) make the report available to—

11 (i) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives;

13 (ii) the majority and minority leaders
14 of the House of Representatives;

15 (iii) the majority and minority leaders
16 of the Senate;

17 (iv) the chair and ranking member of
18 each committee and subcommittee of juris-
19 diction in the House of Representatives
20 and the Senate; and

21 (v) any Member of Congress who re-
22 quests the report.

23 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
24 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
25 but may include a classified annex.