To amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to clarify the responsibility of landowners who do not participate in the operation of oil facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Gibbs introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to clarify the responsibility of landowners who do not participate in the operation of oil facilities, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Innocent Landowners Protection Act”.

4 SEC. 2. RESPONSIBLE PARTY.

5 Section 1001(32)(B) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701(32)(B)) is amended to read as follows:
“(B) Onshore Facilities.—In the case of an onshore facility (other than a pipeline), any person owning or operating the facility, except—

“(i) a Federal agency, State, municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body, that as the owner transfers possession and right to use the property to another person by lease, assignment, or permit; or

“(ii) with respect to a facility for oil exploration, development, production, or storage, a person with an ownership interest in the facility who does not participate in management of the facility, if the acquisition of such interest by the person was not designed to avoid the liability of any person under this Act.”.