



GEOTHERMAL RISING POLICY

ENERGIZING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE.

Good morning,

Hope you are doing well. Next-generation geothermal energy is available today to provide 24/7 clean and reliable electricity all over the West, creating jobs in rural communities and enhancing American energy security. **We urge you to VOTE YES on H.R. 6474, H.R. 7422, and H.R. 7370 which are scheduled to be on the floor tomorrow, Tuesday, September 24, 2024.**

1. [H.R. 6474](#) - *To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas.*

We commend the leadership of Reps. Michelle Steel (R-CA) and Susie Lee (D-NV) in developing the legislation. The bill would provide parity for geothermal energy with oil and gas energy development on public lands.

- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established Categorical Exclusions for certain exploratory activities related to oil and gas development.
- There is bipartisan agreement in Congress that if these Categorical Exclusions exist for oil and gas, they should also extend to geothermal energy.
- Both [conservation organizations](#) and energy advocates support this approach.

2. [H.R. 7422](#) - *The Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024*

House Natural Resources Committee Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Ranking Member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez developed this legislation to authorize the Department of the Interior (DOI) to assess reimbursement from geothermal leaseholders for reasonable administrative costs related to processing lease applications, geothermal drilling permits, and other permits. It would also authorize reimbursement of costs related to monitoring geophysical exploration; the drilling and plugging of wells; and the construction, operation, and reclamation of well sites. This legislation would provide DOI with resources to expedite leasing and permitting.

3. [H.R. 7370](#) - *The Geothermal Energy Opportunity (GEO) Act*

This legislation would require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to process a geothermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to proceed, right-of-way, or any other authorization under a valid existing geothermal lease within 60 days even if there are pending civil actions. This legislation would ensure certainty for project developers.



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Geothermal Energy for 24/7 Clean Electricity

The March 2024 Department of Energy (DOE) [Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Next-Generation report](#) concluded that next-generation geothermal energy could provide 90 GW of clean, firm power by 2050. The report highlighted the “unique value proposition” of geothermal energy, including minimal supply chain or workforce risk, low land use, and flexible generating capability.

Moreover, concerns about electric load growth driven by Artificial Intelligence and data centers have featured in the June 2, 2024 House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee [hearing](#) on "Powering AI: Examining America's Energy and Technology Future." The House of Representatives also [launched](#) a Bipartisan Task Force on Artificial Intelligence. Next-generation geothermal energy can provide clean, firm electricity today to help meet this growing demand.

Leasing and permitting improvements are a critical step in unlocking the potential of next-generation geothermal energy to help meet current and future needs for clean, firm electricity at scale. **For these reasons, we support H.R. 6474, H.R. 7422, and H.R. 7370 and urge the House of Representatives to pass them.**

Please let us know if you have any questions and thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Bryant Jones, PhD
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