



GEOTHERMAL RISING POLICY
ENERGIZING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE.

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Steve Scalise House Majority Leader 2049 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries House Minority Leader 2433 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
The Honorable Pete Stauber Chairman House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources 2049 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515	The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Ranking Member House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources 2049 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Geothermal Rising’s Support of H.R. 8665, the “Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act”

Dear Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez, Majority Leader Scalise, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Honorable Members of the United States House of Representatives:

As the largest and longest running trade association of the geothermal industry in the United States, representing over 100 geothermal organizations, Geothermal Rising writes to express support for the bi-partisan “Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act.” We recognize the leadership of Representative Lucas (R-OK-3) for sponsoring the bill and Representative Salinas (D-OR-6) for co-sponsoring. We also commend the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for reporting the bill and all Members and staff who have participated and voted, thus far.

Regarding the potential of geothermal energy in America, the Department of Energy’s 2019 [GeoVision report](#) anticipated that geothermal energy could provide 60 GW of 24/7 clean, firm electricity by 2050 and their 2024 [Next-Generation Geothermal Power Commercial Liftoff report](#) later projected up to 90 GW. These reports highlighted the “unique value proposition” of geothermal energy, including minimal supply chain or workforce risk, low land use, and flexible generating capability. By shifting its generation to times when power is most valuable, geothermal energy can serve as a clean, baseload, renewable, and reliable resource, which will also free up American oil and gas for export revenue.

The demand for clean baseload power, which geothermal energy can provide, is already high and expected to continue rising sharply, as discussed in the May 21, 2024, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing “[to Examine the Opportunities, Risks, and Challenges Associated with Growth in Demand for Electric Power in the United States.](#)” Policy reforms will enable the private and public sectors to partner and meet America’s growing energy demand by developing its vast geothermal potential, ensuring an ample supply of reliable environmentally friendly electricity and heat for generations to come.

We emphasize the bi-partisan appeal of geothermal energy, and that its unique ability to support environmental stewardship, sustainable development, and energy security is of great benefit to constituents of various backgrounds and ideologies. We respectfully urge continued reasonable policy reforms to unleash America’s geothermal energy potential to serve these shared energy and environmental interests— which are fundamentally *American* interests. With these reforms, the geothermal energy industry has the potential to expand the current geothermal workforce of 8,000 to 240,000 at scale.¹

¹ [Next-Generation Geothermal Power Commercial Liftoff report](#)



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Regarding supercritical geothermal resources specifically as emphasized in H.R. 8665, these ultradeep resources must be harnessed in order to even further expand the geographic possibilities of geothermal power production—necessary to meet our goals and fulfill the full potential of geothermal energy in America. Key provisions of H.R. 8665 would accelerate innovations in supercritical geothermal systems by:

- Requiring the collection of publicly-available data from the hydrocarbon and mining industries for the purpose of supercritical geothermal R&D.
- Establishing a research program focused on supercritical geothermal technologies, including well completion, materials development, water-rock geochemistry, and deep drilling.
- Directing the DOE and DOI to periodically drill supercritical geothermal exploration boreholes for geothermal mapping and data updates.
- Requiring FORGE to support supercritical geothermal testing, as feasible.
- Establishing a Next-Generation Geothermal Center of Excellence.
- Mandating regular geothermal resource assessments and progress reports to Congress on geothermal potential, project results, and commercialization barriers.
- Authorizing \$5 million annually from 2026 to 2030 to support these initiatives.

Geothermal Rising believes that by enabling geothermal resources to be harnessed in deeper, hotter, harsher, and more energy-intensive conditions across the nation, innovations in supercritical geothermal technologies can be beneficial for the entire geothermal energy industry including hydrothermal, enhanced, closed-loop systems, and even geo-exchange thermal networks. Therefore, we support H.R. 8665 and urge the House to advance the bill.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bryant Jones, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Geothermal Rising
www.geothermal.org