

December 13, 2024

**RE: Geothermal Rising’s Support of S. 4753, the “Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024”**

---

Dear Honorable Member of the United States House of Representatives and Staff:

Geothermal Rising writes to express support for the bipartisan “Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024” (EPRA), introduced by Senators Manchin (I-WV) and Barrasso (R-WY). **We respectfully urge you to include EPRA in the upcoming Continuing Resolution and reach out to Energy and Commerce and Caucus leadership to encourage their support.**

Section 208 of the EPRA would address many of the permitting challenges facing the geothermal industry and includes many of the same (or similar) provisions that have recently passed the House with bipartisan support.

Key provisions of the EPRA would:

- Direct the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish Categorical Exclusions for certain exploratory activities related to geothermal energy development;
- Require annual federal geothermal lease sales;
- Set agency deadlines for processing geothermal drilling permits;
- Allow DOI to set rules to allow permit applicants or lessees to reimburse DOI for the administrative costs of processing leases and permits;
- Create a process for simultaneous, concurrent consideration of multiple phases of a geothermal project from surface exploration to power plant construction;
- Amend the Categorical Exclusions for oil and gas activities in section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide parity for geothermal energy development; and



## **GEOHERMAL RISING POLICY**

**ENERGIZING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE.**

---

- Establish a Geothermal Ombudsman at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to serve as a liaison between BLM field offices and the BLM Director and develop best practices for geothermal energy leasing and permitting.

Geothermal Rising believes that renewable energy development on public lands should carefully consider environmental impacts. However, the current approval process for geothermal projects is bogged down by duplicative assessments and lengthy, opaque permitting timelines, which hinder the efficient planning, financing, and construction of these projects. Section 208 of the EPRA will modernize geothermal energy leasing and permitting; therefore, we support the EPRA 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](http://www.geothermal.org)