

118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7370

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## AN ACT

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Energy  
3 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**  
5 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-**  
6 **THERMAL LEASING.**

7 Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30  
8 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(h) **EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**  
11 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-**  
12 **ING.—**

13 “(1) **REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-**  
14 **TIONS.—**Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-  
15 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-  
16 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-  
17 ceed, right-of-way, or any other authorization under  
18 a valid existing geothermal lease, the Secretary shall,  
19 unless a United States Federal court vacates or pro-  
20 vides injunctive relief for the applicable geothermal  
21 lease, geothermal drilling permit, sundry notice, no-  
22 tice to proceed, right-of-way, or other authorization,  
23 approve and issue, or deny, each such application  
24 not later than 60 days after completing all require-  
25 ments under applicable Federal laws and regula-  
26 tions, including the National Environmental Policy

1 Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973,  
2 and division A of subtitle III of title 54, United  
3 States Code.

4 “(2) NO NEW AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL  
5 COURTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-  
6 strued as modifying any existing authority of a Fed-  
7 eral court to vacate or provide injunctive relief for  
8 a geothermal lease, geothermal drilling permit, sun-  
9 dry notice, notice to proceed, right-of-way, or other  
10 authorization.

11 “(3) DEFINITION OF AUTHORIZATION.—In this  
12 subsection, the term ‘authorization’ means any li-  
13 cense, permit, approval, finding, determination, or  
14 other administrative decision issued by a Federal  
15 agency, or any interagency consultation, that is re-  
16 quired or authorized under Federal law or regula-  
17 tions in order to site, construct, reconstruct, or com-  
18 mence operations of a geothermal project adminis-  
19 tered by a Federal agency.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 24,  
2024.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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