

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7422

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide
cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior.

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 Cost-Re-
3covery Authority Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. COST RECOVERY FROM GEOTHERMAL LEASING,**
5 **PERMITTING, AND INSPECTIONS.**

6 Section 6 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30
7 U.S.C. 1005) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8lowing:

9 “(j) COST RECOVERY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period that be-
11gins on the date of enactment of this subsection and
12ends September 30, 2031, the Secretary may require
13an applicant for, or a holder of, a geothermal lease
14to reimburse the United States for all reasonable ad-
15ministrative and other costs incurred by the United
16States from—

17 “(A) processing the application for the
18geothermal lease, including any application for
19an operations plan, geothermal drilling permit,
20utilization plan, site license, facility construc-
21tion permit, commercial use permit, and any
22other approval associated with a geothermal
23lease; and

24 “(B) inspecting and monitoring—

25 “(i) geophysical exploration activities;

1 “(ii) the drilling, plugging, and aban-
2 donment of wells; and

3 “(iii) the construction, operation, ter-
4 mination, and reclamation of any well site
5 or facility for the utilization of geothermal
6 resources pursuant to the geothermal
7 lease.

8 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining wheth-
9 er to require reimbursement under paragraph (1),
10 the Secretary shall consider whether there is in ex-
11 istence a cooperative cost share agreement between
12 the United States and the holder of a geothermal
13 lease.

14 “(3) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may re-
15 duce the amount to be reimbursed under paragraph
16 (1) if the Secretary determines—

17 “(A) that full reimbursement would impose
18 an economic hardship on the applicant; or

19 “(B) that a less than full reimbursement is
20 necessary to promote the greatest use of geo-
21 thermal resources.

22 “(4) USE.—The amounts reimbursed under this
23 subsection shall be credited to the currently applica-
24 ble appropriation, account, or fund of the Depart-
25 ment of the Interior as discretionary offsetting col-

1 lections, and shall be available only to the extent
2 provided in advance in appropriations Acts for—

3 “(A) processing the application for geo-
4 thermal leases, including any application for op-
5 erations plans, geothermal drilling permits, uti-
6 lization plans, site licenses, facility construction
7 permits, commercial use permits, and any other
8 approval associated with geothermal leases; and

9 “(B) inspecting and monitoring—

10 “(i) geophysical exploration activities;

11 “(ii) the drilling, plugging, and aban-
12 donment of wells; and

13 “(iii) the construction, operation, ter-
14 mination, and reclamation of any well site
15 or facility for the utilization of geothermal
16 resources pursuant to geothermal leases.”.

17 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

18 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
19 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior,
20 in consultation with the geothermal industry and other
21 stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Natural
22 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
23 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate,
24 and make publicly available on the website of the Depart-
25 ment of the Interior, a report that includes—

