

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7370

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Energy
5 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**
2 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-**
3 **THERMAL LEASING.**

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

7 “(h) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-
8 ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-
9 ING.—

10 “(1) REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-
11 TIONS.—Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-
12 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-
13 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-
14 ceed, right-of-way, or other authorization or ap-
15 proval under a valid existing geothermal lease, the
16 Secretary shall, unless a United States Federal court
17 vacated the applicable geothermal lease, process each
18 such application not later than 30 days after com-
19 pleting all environmental documents required under
20 section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental
21 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for the
22 authorization or approval.

23 “(2) NO NEW AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL
24 COURTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-

1 strued as providing authority to a Federal court to
2 vacate a geothermal lease.”.

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