

Union Calendar No. 463

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7370

[Report No. 118-561]

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

JUNE 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 15, 2024]

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 Op-*
5 *portunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.*

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

9 *Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30*
10 *U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

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

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

1 *under applicable Federal laws and regulations, in-*
2 *cluding the National Environmental Policy Act of*
3 *1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and divi-*
4 *sion A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code.*

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

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

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118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7370

[Report No. 118-5611]

A BILL

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

JUNE 27, 2024

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed