

Union Calendar No. 568

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 301

[Report No. 119-654]

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Ms. MALOY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

MAY 20, 2026

Additional sponsors: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. FULCHER, and Ms. ELFRETH

MAY 20, 2026

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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”.

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 fol-
11 lowing:

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

15 “(1) REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-
16 TIONS.—Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-
17 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-
18 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-
19 ceed, right-of-way, or any other authorization under
20 a valid existing geothermal lease, the Secretary shall,
21 unless a United States Federal court vacates or pro-
22 vides injunctive relief for the applicable geothermal
23 lease, geothermal drilling permit, sundry notice, no-
24 tice to proceed, right-of-way, or other authorization,
25 approve and issue, or deny, each such application

1 not later than 60 days after completing all require-
2 ments under applicable Federal laws and regula-
3 tions, including the National Environmental Policy
4 Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973,
5 and division A of subtitle III of title 54, United
6 States Code.

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

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

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