

Union Calendar No. 573

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5617

[Report No. 119–659]

To direct the Department of the Interior to identify and publish standard procedures and guidelines for geothermal leasing and permit issuance for environmentally responsible geothermal operations on Federal lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Ms. ANSARI (for herself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

MAY 20, 2026

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 September 30, 2025]

A BILL

To direct the Department of the Interior to identify and publish standard procedures and guidelines for geothermal leasing and permit issuance for environmentally responsible geothermal operations on Federal lands.

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 Gold Book*
5 *Development Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PUBLICATION OF “GOLD BOOK” FOR GEOTHERMAL**
7 **OPERATIONS ON FEDERAL LANDS.**

8 (a) *IDENTIFICATION.*—*Not later than one year after*
9 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Inte-*
10 *rior, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies,*
11 *shall identify standard procedures and guidelines for effi-*
12 *cient and environmentally responsible geothermal leasing*
13 *and permitting to the extent such standard procedures and*
14 *guidelines are not addressed in the fourth edition of the Bu-*
15 *reau of Land Management’s “Surface Operating Standards*
16 *and Guidelines for Oil and Gas Exploration and Develop-*
17 *ment”, commonly known as the “Gold Book” and last re-*
18 *vised in 2007.*

19 (b) *PUBLICATION.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 270 days after*
21 *identifying standard procedures and guidelines under*
22 *subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall pub-*
23 *lish an updated version of the Gold Book incor-*
24 *porating any changes necessary to support efficient*
25 *and environmentally responsible geothermal leasing*

1 *and permitting for use by the field offices of the Bu-*
2 *reau of Land Management and geothermal operators.*

3 (2) *RENAMING GOLD BOOK.*—*The Secretary of*
4 *the Interior shall rename the Gold Book to reflect the*
5 *incorporation of standard procedures and guidelines*
6 *related to geothermal development.*

7 (c) *CONSULTATION.*—*Before publishing an updated*
8 *version of the Gold Book, the Secretary of the Interior shall*
9 *consult with—*

10 (1) *other relevant Federal agencies, including*
11 *field offices of the Bureau of Land Management; and*

12 (2) *outside stakeholders, including developers*
13 *and other experts.*

14 (d) *INCLUSIONS.*—*Each updated version of the Gold*
15 *Book shall include standard procedures and guidelines for*
16 *ensuring the efficient review and approval of environ-*
17 *mentally responsible geothermal development, including—*

18 (1) *exploration and geophysical operations;*

19 (2) *permitting lease operations;*

20 (3) *compliance with all applicable laws and reg-*
21 *ulations;*

22 (4) *construction and maintenance; and*

23 (5) *drilling, production, and utilization oper-*
24 *ations.*

1 (e) *PERIODIC REVISION.*—*The Secretary of the Inte-*
2 *rior shall—*

3 (1) *at least once every five years, review the most*
4 *recent version of the Gold Book; and*

5 (2) *if determined necessary by the Secretary of*
6 *the Interior to support efficient and environmentally*
7 *responsible geothermal leasing and permitting, pub-*
8 *lish an updated version of the Gold Book.*

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