

Union Calendar No.

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7370

[Report No. 118-]

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

APRIL --, 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.”*