

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7422
OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ OF NEW YORK**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Cost-Re-
3 covey Authority Act of 2024”.

**4 SEC. 2. COST RECOVERY FROM GEOTHERMAL LEASING
5 AND PERMITTING.**

6 Section 6 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30
7 U.S.C. 1005) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(j) COST RECOVERY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period that be-
11 gins on the date of enactment of this subsection and
12 ends September 30, 2031, the Secretary may require
13 a holder of a geothermal lease to reimburse the
14 United States for all reasonable administrative and
15 other costs incurred by the United States from—

16 “(A) processing the application for the
17 geothermal lease, including any application for
18 an operations plan, geothermal drilling permit,

1 utilization plan, site license, facility construc-
2 tion permit, commercial use permit, and any
3 other approval associated with a geothermal
4 lease; and

5 “(B) monitoring—

6 “(i) geophysical exploration oper-
7 ations;

8 “(ii) the drilling, plugging, and aban-
9 donment of wells; and

10 “(iii) the construction, operation, ter-
11 mination, and reclamation of any well site
12 or facility for the utilization of geothermal
13 resources pursuant to the geothermal
14 lease.

15 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining wheth-
16 er to require reimbursement under paragraph (1),
17 the Secretary shall consider whether there is in ex-
18 istence a contributed funds agreement between the
19 United States and the holder of a geothermal lease.

20 “(3) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may re-
21 duce the amount to be reimbursed under paragraph
22 (1) if the Secretary determines—

23 “(A) that full reimbursement would impose
24 an economic hardship on the holder of the geo-
25 thermal lease; or

1 “(B) that a less than full reimbursement is
2 necessary to promote the greatest use of geo-
3 thermal resources.

4 “(4) USE.—The amounts reimbursed under this
5 subsection shall be available to the Secretary of the
6 Interior for expenditure for—

7 “(A) processing the application for the
8 geothermal lease, including any application for
9 an operations plan, geothermal drilling permit,
10 utilization plan, site license, facility construc-
11 tion permit, commercial use permit, and any
12 other approval associated with a geothermal
13 lease; and

14 “(B) monitoring—

15 “(i) geophysical exploration oper-
16 ations;

17 “(ii) the drilling, plugging, and aban-
18 donment of wells; and

19 “(iii) the construction, operation, ter-
20 mination, and reclamation of any well site
21 or facility for the utilization of geothermal
22 resources pursuant to the geothermal
23 lease.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

2 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
3 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior
4 shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of
5 the House of Representatives and the Committee on En-
6 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and make pub-
7 licly available on the website of the Department of the In-
8 terior, a report that includes—

9 (1) an assessment of how the amendments
10 made by section 2 of this Act affected the Bureau
11 of Land Management’s geothermal program, includ-
12 ing the accomplishments of each field office relating
13 to the coordination and processing of geothermal
14 permits and any other approval associated with a
15 geothermal lease;

16 (2) any recommendations for reauthorization of
17 section 6(j) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970,
18 as added by this Act; and

19 (3) any other recommendations for updates to
20 such section and the Bureau of Land Management’s
21 geothermal program.

22 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the report re-
23 quired in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall
24 solicit facts or information from the geothermal industry
25 and other stakeholders.

