

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7422

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior.

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 Cost-Re-
5 covery Authority Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. COST RECOVERY FROM GEOTHERMAL LEASING,**
7 **PERMITTING, AND INSPECTIONS.**

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

1 “(j) COST RECOVERY.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require
3 an applicant for, or a holder of, a geothermal lease
4 to reimburse the United States for all reasonable ad-
5 ministrative and other costs incurred by the United
6 States from—

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) inspecting and monitoring—

15 “(i) geophysical exploration activities;

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

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

23 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining wheth-
24 er to require reimbursement under paragraph (1),
25 the Secretary shall consider whether there is in ex-

1 istence a cooperative cost share agreement between
2 the United States and the holder of a geothermal
3 lease.”.

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