



The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0404

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0502

July 22, 2025

RE: Ormat Supports Streamlined Permitting Reforms to Accelerate Geothermal Energy Deployment

As the largest geothermal energy developer in the United States, Ormat Technologies Inc. appreciates the Committee's leadership in advancing permitting reform to accelerate the deployment of clean, reliable, and domestically sourced energy. We strongly support efforts to modernize the regulatory framework governing geothermal development on federal lands.

Geothermal energy is a uniquely valuable resource—delivering consistent, around-the-clock power with a small environmental footprint, and strong domestic supply chains. Ormat's decades of experience developing, building, and operating geothermal projects across the western U.S. demonstrate the technology's potential to contribute meaningfully to national energy security and decarbonization goals.

However, the current permitting process remains a significant barrier to timely and cost-effective development. Outdated regulations, redundant environmental reviews, and a lack of categorical exclusions for low-impact exploration activities create unnecessary delays and uncertainty—often stretching project timelines to nearly a decade.

To address these challenges, we respectfully urge the Committee to consider the following reforms:

Permitting Timelines: Establish clear, enforceable deadlines for agency review and approval of geothermal permit applications. Current processes can take 5–10 years—reforms should aim to significantly reduce this timeframe to enable timely project development.

Concurrent Environmental Reviews: Allow for simultaneous review of project phases to eliminate unnecessary sequential delays and streamline project timelines.

Removal of Regulatory Barriers: Eliminate outdated or duplicative permitting requirements that serve as de facto barriers to responsible development.

Agency Capacity and Expertise: Ensure federal agencies, particularly the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are adequately resourced and staffed with geothermal-specific expertise to process applications efficiently.

Ormat is committed to responsible geothermal development that upholds environmental stewardship while delivering clean energy to American communities. We thank the Committee for its attention to this critical issue and welcome the opportunity to provide technical input as legislative proposals move forward.

Sincerely,



Marisol Collons
Communications & Government Affairs Manager
Ormat Technologies Inc.
mcollons@ormat.com