


(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7370

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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
5 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**
2 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-**
3 **THERMAL LEASING.**

4 Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30
5 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(h) **EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**
8 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-**
9 **ING.—**

10 “(1) **REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-**
11 **TIONS.—**Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-
12 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-
13 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-
14 ceed, right-of-way, or other authorization or ap-
15 proval under a valid existing geothermal lease, the
16 Secretary shall, unless a United States Federal court
17 vacated the applicable geothermal lease, process each
18 such application not later than 30 days after com-
19 pleting all environmental documents required under
20 section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental
21 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for the
22 authorization or approval.

23 “(2) **NO NEW AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL**
24 **COURTS.—**Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
25 strued as providing authority to a Federal court to
26 vacate a geothermal lease.”