

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**March 6, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**

- **H.R. 6482 (Rep. Fulcher)**, “*Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act*”;
- **H.R. 7370 (Rep. Curtis)**, “*Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act*” or the “*GEO Act*”;
- **H.R. 7375 (Rep. Hageman)**, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes;
- **H.R. 7377 (Rep. Hunt)**, “*Royalty Resiliency Act*”;
- **H.R. 7409 (Rep. Kim of CA)**, “*Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act*” or the “*HEATS Act*”; and
- **H.R. 7422 (Rep. Ocasio-Cortez)**, “*Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024*”.

**Questions from Rep. Huffman** for [Mr. Joe Uehlein, Founding President, Labor Network for Sustainability]

1. While it is critical that the U.S. ramps down fossil fuel production and reliance and scales up clean energy deployment, we must still do so responsibly. Over the last year, the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, has been consistently under threat. That is something we cannot support, even when it’s for renewable energy. Why is it important to you and the Labor Network for Sustainability more broadly that we maintain justice and equity in all our transition policies?

Given the planetary boundaries we've already crossed, and those we will soon cross, it is critical that environmental review be strengthened so that further harm to the natural world can be reduced and eliminated. This will benefit the natural world, and our working families. We need more robust transition policies that protect working people and the planet we inhabit. We cannot allow this to be an either/or proposition. No worker, and no community, should be the roadkill on the path to a better world.

The Labor Network for Sustainability is dedicated to "Making a Living On a Living Planet." We view these goals as equal to one another; one is not more important than the other. We can have an ecologically sustainable and economically just future. If we fail at either, we fail working families. Workers have always cared about their

communities, and about the environment. The first Earth Day would not have happened without the active support and financial assistance from the UAW (auto workers), and AFSCME (state, county and municipal employees). The link between workplace rights and environmental justice is clear. What good is an extra week vacation we negotiate, if the lake we take our kids to is polluted and they can't swim in it? More broadly, there are no jobs on a dead planet. The fossil fuel industrial complex has worked hard to spin false tales and false solutions designed to divide workers from the environment, and the environment from workers. At the Labor Network for Sustainability we reject such false divisions. We believe that an injury to one is an injury to all, and we believe that we are linked organically to this planet, so an injury to the natural world is an injury to working people.

As the environment around us deteriorates, so does the economy. Environmental degradation, and global warming, represent the biggest threat to our economy. The economic impacts of environmental degradation will be far worse than the Great Depression. Justice and equity goals in all transition policies must be strengthened. The transition ahead of us offers the opportunity to right the wrongs of the past, to save our natural world, and to provide good jobs for everyone. Moving forward with renewable energy absent the protections of the National Environmental Policy Act places not only our natural world but also our working families at risk. We can have both a healthy environment and good jobs for our people.