

Congressman John R. Curtis Testimony on H.R. 7370  
Committee on Natural Resources – Energy and Mineral Resources  
March 6, 2023

I am proud to sponsor the GEO Act which simply says the Department of Interior must issue all applications and authorizations as long as the underlying lease is intact.

Companies and innovators who continue to move the United States towards clean, reliable and affordable energy are often stalled by agencies fearful of nonprofit conservation litigation.

After a company has spent substantial time and resources getting a project permitted, Interior is still withholding notices to proceed, drilling permits, and other authorizations because of litigation threats against a project.

DOE has projected that Enhanced Geothermal Systems could contribute up to 60 gigawatts of electricity by 2050, accounting for 8.5% of the U.S. generation capacity.

But developers face lengthy and costly environmental reviews, along with cumbersome leasing and permitting processes, resulting in timelines that extend far beyond those of other power production projects.

Utah is a case study for geothermal as proven by UTAH Forge, a dedicated underground field laboratory sponsored by the Department of Energy for developing, testing and accelerating geothermal breakthroughs.