

Statement of Congressman Russ Fulcher
H.R. 6482 - Enhancing Geothermal on Federal Lands Act
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the ranking member and the committee for allowing my bill to be a part of the hearing today. I strongly advocate for the utilization of geothermal energy. I've been witness to the successes of using geothermal energy in my home State of Idaho. The Idaho Capitol Building is the only capitol building in the country that is powered by geothermal energy. In fact, the City of Boise, since 1883, is the largest, municipally operated system in the country, which heats over

90 buildings throughout downtown Boise and over 300 homes. This energy is innovative, renewable, and sustainable to the core. My bill, H.R. 6482 - Enhancing Geothermal on Federal Lands Act exempts geothermal exploration wells from NEPA review under certain permitting criteria to promote timely exploration under geothermal leasing. Geothermal is insulated from fuel price fluctuations which offers long-term stability in energy costs, creates jobs, stimulates local economies, and enhances energy independence. Geothermal draws on heat from the earth that is readily available and produces

consistent grid resilient power renewable. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bill through law.