

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2024

Dr. Steven Feldgus
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
US Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Feldgus

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at a legislative hearing on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, on the following bills:

- **Discussion Draft of H.R. ____ (Rep. Hunt)**, “*Comprehensive Offshore Resource Evaluation Act*” or the “*CORE Act*”;
- **H.R. 7053 (Rep. Thompson of PA)**, “*Orphan Well Grant Flexibility Act of 2024*”;
- **H.R. 8665 (Rep. Lucas)**, “*Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act*”;
- **H.R. 8954 (Rep. Gosar)**, “*Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2024*.”

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee’s understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Jacob Greenberg, Clerk, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov by August 9, 2024. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Chairman

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing
1334 Longworth House Office Building
July 23, 2024
11:15 AM

Discussion Draft of H.R. ____ (Rep. Hunt), “Comprehensive Offshore Resource Evaluation Act” or the “CORE Act”;

H.R. 7053 (Rep. Thompson of PA), “Orphan Well Grant Flexibility Act of 2024”;

H.R. 8665 (Rep. Lucas), “Supercritical Geothermal Research and Development Act”; and

H.R. 8954 (Rep. Gosar), “Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2024.”

Questions from Rep. Westerman for Dr. Steve Feldgus, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

H.R. 7053

1. For the federal and state orphaned wells programs under the IIJA, is the Department tracking how much of each respective pot of money is being used on plugging efforts versus the other activities listed in Section 40601(c)(2)(A) and Section 40601(b)(2)?
 - a. If so, please send that breakdown?
2. Why didn't the Department notify states in the Department's Formula Grant Guidance that the funding would be subject to Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act requirements?
3. How many wells do you anticipate being plugged by states using Formula Grant money in FY '24?

H.R. 8954

4. How much yearly revenue is generated by energy storage facilities located on federal lands? If energy storage projects currently under review are approved, how much additional revenue will be generated?

5. What percentage of wind and solar projects currently under review at BLM are co-located with an energy storage facility? How does this number compare with standalone energy storage facilities under review on federal lands?
6. What is the average timeline between the date of receipt of an application for a Cost Recovery Agreement and approval for energy projects on federal land since 2021?
7. What is the average timeline between the submission of a project proposal and a Notice of Intent (NOI) for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being issued for energy projects on federal land since 2021?
8. What is the average timeline for completion of an EIS once an NOI has been issued for energy projects on federal lands since 2021?