

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

May 15, 2025

Mr. Paul Thomsen
Vice President of Business Development
Ormat Technologies, Inc.
6884 Sierra Center Parkway
Reno, NV 80511

Dear Mr. Thomsen,

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at an oversight field hearing titled, "*Letting Off Steam: Unleashing Geothermal Energy Development on Federal Land*" on Monday, May 12, 2025, in Cedar City, Utah.

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, Legislative Assistant, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov by June 2, 2025. 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
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

Enclosure

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Oversight Field Hearing
Southern Utah University
May 12, 2025
2:00 PM (MDT)

“Letting Off Steam: Unleashing Geothermal Energy Development on Federal Land”

Questions from Rep. Huffman for Mr. Paul Thomsen, Vice President of Business Development, Ormat

1. Legislation is now under consideration that mandates annual geothermal lease sales in all states with known geothermal resources on federal land. The legislation also requires that all eligible acreage (pursuant to a land use plan) nominated by industry be offered for lease – without leaving any opportunity for public input into leasing, site-specific analysis, or scoping to address potential resource or land use conflicts prior to a lease auction. Land use plans are often woefully outdated — some are over 40 years old and no longer accurately reflect existing resource conflicts. Please explain how the industry will work with stakeholders to ensure nominations will avoid, minimize, mitigate, and compensate for any resource conflicts.

2. A common theme during the hearing was permitting delays, which were mostly attributed to duplicative NEPA reviews and other inefficient regulatory processes. Not discussed was the adequacy of agency funding and staffing to be able to process geothermal reviews and permits in a timely manner. Some people with industry experience believe federal regulators process paperwork for oil and gas much faster than for geothermal due to disparities in funding and staffing and less centralization and coordination associated with geothermal permitting than fossil fuel permitting. In your experience, do you believe the agencies—particularly the BLM’s Renewable Energy Coordination Offices and other relevant offices — are adequately funded and

staffed with geothermal permitting experts to be responsive to your needs and act in a timely manner?