

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 301

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Ms. MALOY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Energy
5 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**
2 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-**
3 **THERMAL LEASING.**

4 Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30
5 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(h) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-
8 ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-
9 ING.—

10 “(1) REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-
11 TIONS.—Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-
12 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-
13 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-
14 ceed, right-of-way, or any other authorization under
15 a valid existing geothermal lease, the Secretary shall,
16 unless a United States Federal court vacates or pro-
17 vides injunctive relief for the applicable geothermal
18 lease, geothermal drilling permit, sundry notice, no-
19 tice to proceed, right-of-way, or other authorization,
20 approve and issue, or deny, each such application
21 not later than 60 days after completing all require-
22 ments under applicable Federal laws and regula-
23 tions, including the National Environmental Policy
24 Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973,
25 and division A of subtitle III of title 54, United
26 States Code.

1 “(2) NO NEW AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL
2 COURTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
3 strued as modifying any existing authority of a Fed-
4 eral court to vacate or provide injunctive relief for
5 a geothermal lease, geothermal drilling permit, sun-
6 dry notice, notice to proceed, right-of-way, or other
7 authorization.

8 “(3) DEFINITION OF AUTHORIZATION.—In this
9 subsection, the term ‘authorization’ means any li-
10 cense, permit, approval, finding, determination, or
11 other administrative decision issued by a Federal
12 agency, or any interagency consultation, that is re-
13 quired or authorized under Federal law or regula-
14 tions in order to site, construct, reconstruct, or com-
15 mence operations of a geothermal project adminis-
16 tered by a Federal agency.”.

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