Testimony of Tim Latimer
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Mr. Latimer's testimony before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources for a legislative hearing:

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ansari, and the full Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Tim Latimer, Co-founder and CEO of Fervo Energy, a leading developer of next-generation geothermal technology. It's an honor to discuss how geothermal, and smart, bipartisan permitting reform, can help meet America's growing power needs.

Earlier this year, I joined some of you in Cedar City, Utah, following a visit to Fervo's Cape Station project. Since that field hearing, we've made significant progress and delivered real innovation in Utah including securing our first turbine, successfully testing our transformer, and raising over $600 million in capital.

At Fervo, we've taken proven techniques from the shale revolution—horizontal drilling, fiber-optic sensing, and real-time data analytics—and reimagined them for geothermal. The result is Enhanced Geothermal Systems, or EGS: the only zero-emission, baseload power source ready to scale rapidly over the next five years.

Our flagship project, Cape Station in Utah, is under construction today. Beginning next year, it is on track to deliver 100 megawatts of round-the-clock power, with plans to scale to 500 megawatts. It is already permitted for up to 2 gigawatts, positioning it to become the world's largest next-generation geothermal development.

Cape Station proves this is no longer theoretical. We are drilling faster every month, learning from each well, and cutting costs at a pace reminiscent of early shale. We have already shown a 75% reduction in drilling time and a 70% per-foot cost reduction since 2022, demonstrating the speed America needs to meet rising electricity demand.

That demand is accelerating rapidly. Artificial intelligence and data centers alone could consume up to 12 percent of U.S. electricity by 2028. Geothermal is uniquely positioned to provide the affordable, reliable, 24/7 power this moment requires.

Enhanced geothermal is built by American workers using American equipment. Many of our employees come from the oil and gas sector, and it takes just two days to retrain a worker for an EGS rig. This is a pathway to scale a new energy industry while creating durable, good-paying jobs rooted in the existing U.S. workforce.

EGS is also designed to minimize environmental impacts. Fervo uses dry cooling and closed-loop systems that reinject all produced fluids, protecting groundwater and reducing surface disturbance. We take induced seismicity seriously and use advanced modeling and real-time monitoring, following best practices established by the Department of Energy.

Our supply chain is domestic. While our early projects are in the West, our suppliers span states including Texas, Wyoming, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada, and Utah. Enhanced geothermal does not rely on foreign adversaries and strengthens U.S. energy security while delivering real economic benefits to local communities.

The greatest barrier to geothermal growth isn't technology—it's process. Over 90 percent of geothermal resources lie beneath federally managed lands, yet permitting can take years. Meanwhile, Fervo is working towards drilling, building, and bringing select phases of a project online in under 24 months where permitting and interconnection are in place. With targeted reforms to environmental review and transmission permitting, geothermal can become a cornerstone of America's energy supply.

That's why we appreciate this Committee's leadership. Fervo supports all nine bills before you today. These common-sense measures, such as categorical exclusions for exploration, timely lease sales, and increased geothermal expertise within federal agencies, will put geothermal on equal footing with oil and gas while maintaining strong environmental and community protections.

The geothermal opportunity is not decades away. With efficient permitting and targeted investment, the United States can unlock tens of gigawatts of enhanced geothermal by 2030, strengthening grid reliability, U.S. competitiveness, and energy security.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your questions.