



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Energy Subcommittee Markup of:

H.R. 2986, the *BEST Act*

H.R. 5374, the *Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act of 2019*

H.R. 5428, the *Grid Modernization Research and Development Act of 2019*

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Good afternoon and thank you, Chairman Lamb, for holding this mark-up to advance legislation that prioritizes research activities in geothermal energy production.

Americans have used various forms of geothermal energy since the 1800s. Despite this long history, geothermal energy technologies have largely struggled to become or remain competitive in modern energy markets, yet huge potential exists for further advancement and commercialization.

In my home state of Texas, there is great potential for geothermal energy production that remains untapped, with naturally occurring large wells of hot water as well as other promising heat reservoirs below the ground.

Energy produced by geothermal technologies does not emit greenhouse gases. Just this Congress alone, this Committee has passed several bills that would reduce the impacts of climate change. I am hoping we can help a few more along today. Additionally, not only can geothermal technologies produce clean electricity, but they can also be used for industrial applications, such as through heat production for manufacturing processes or critical mineral extraction.

These are all reasons why I am pleased these issues received serious attention during a Subcommittee hearing held last month. That hearing brought together esteemed experts - one of which from the Great State of Texas I might add - who reinforced our understanding that geothermal energy production has huge potential as an essential resource in our clean energy technology portfolio.

I am glad that we are addressing this important issue today by considering the Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act introduced by my friend Ranking Member Lucas, which I am proud to co-sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Lucas, for working with us and introducing this great piece of legislation. The bill includes research initiatives on oil and gas technology transfer to geothermal research, secondary use research areas such as minerals recovery and storage, and

new areas of research in enhanced geothermal systems. It also authorizes groundbreaking new research activities in advanced geothermal computing and data science.

I want to thank Chairman Lamb once again for convening this mark-up, and I look forward to continuing to work together with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation that helps advance geothermal energy as well as a broad range of other clean energy technologies.

With that, I yield back.