

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7370

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Energy
3 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-**
5 **ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-**
6 **THERMAL LEASING.**

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

10 “(h) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-
11 ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-
12 ING.—

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

1 Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973,
2 and division A of subtitle III of title 54, United
3 States Code.

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives September 24,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.