

**To:** House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members

From: Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Staff, Ashley McManus –

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**Date:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Subject: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 6482 (Rep. Fulcher), H.R. 7370 (Rep. Curtis), H.R.

7375 (Rep. Hageman), H.R. 7377 (Rep. Hunt), H.R. 7409 (Rep. Kim of CA), and

H.R. 7422 (Rep. Ocasio-Cortez).

The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 6482 (Rep. Fulcher), "Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act"; H.R. 7370 (Rep. Curtis), "Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act" or the "GEO Act"; H.R. 7375 (Rep. Hageman), To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes; H.R. 7377 (Rep. Hunt), "Royalty Resiliency Act"; H.R. 7409 (Rep. Kim of CA), "Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act" or the "HEATS Act"; and H.R. 7422 (Rep. Ocasio-Cortez), "Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024", on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.

Member offices are requested to notify Lonnie Smith (<u>Lonnie.Smith@mail.house.gov</u>) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

#### I. KEY MESSAGES

- An all-of-the-above approach to domestic energy including oil, natural gas, and geothermal is the best way to support the energy needs of American families while also meeting our technological and national security needs.
- Geothermal energy development is specifically hampered by poor Federal permitting processes and would greatly benefit from provisions to remove red tape.
- The Republican geothermal bills in this hearing would improve geothermal permitting by waiving permitting requirements for low surface impact exploration activities, ensuring geothermal permits are processed unless a Federal Court has deemed otherwise, and removing the Federal government from permitting geothermal wells that have minimal Federal involvement.
- In Fiscal Year 2023 alone, federal onshore oil and gas revenue totaled roughly \$7.73 billion. The way these revenues are collected must be done in a commonsense manner to avoid unnecessary and unintended consequences that discourage interest in energy development on Federal lands.

• The Republican bills in this hearing would ensure that operators do not pay fees for leases they do not own and prevent operators from unnecessarily over-paying royalties on production.

#### II. WITNESSES

#### **Panel I (Members of Congress):**

• To be Announced

#### Panel II:

- Mr. Benjamin E. Gruber, Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C. [All Bills]
- **Mr. Steve Dudgeon,** Principal, Severance Tax/Royalty, Ryan LLC, Houston, TX [H.R. 7377]
- **Dr. Bryant Jones,** Executive Director, Geothermal Rising, Boise, ID [*H.R.* 6482, *H.R.* 7370, *H.R.* 7409, and *H.R.* 7422]
- **Mr. Dan Naatz,** Chief Operating Officer, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Washington, D.C. [H.R. 7375, and H.R. 7377]
- **Mr. Joe Uehlein,** Founding President, Labor Network for Sustainability, Takoma Park, MD [*Minority Witness*] [H.R. 7422]

#### III. BACKGROUND

Geothermal

#### **Geothermal Energy on Federal Lands**

Geothermal power is considered a renewable energy resource and is derived by capturing heat from an underground water reservoir or naturally generated steam under high pressure. In 2021, there were geothermal power plants in seven states, which produced about 16 billion kilowatt hours (kWh), equal to 0.4% of total U.S. utility-scale electricity generation. Enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) are man-made reservoirs where fluid is injected into the subsurface in areas with hot rock, creating the permeability of pre-existing fractures. Increased permeability allows fluid to circulate throughout the now-fractured rock and to transport heat to the surface. The Department of Energy (DOE) projects that EGS could provide 60 gigawatts (GW) of electricity by 2050 (8.5% of U.S. generation capacity). However, the multiple environmental reviews and the time and costs for them, as well as the overall leasing and permitting processes,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, Enhanced Geothermal Systems: Introduction and Issues for Congress, September 29, 2022, <a href="https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47256">https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47256</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> EIA, Geothermal basics, <a href="https://www.eia.gov/kids/energy-sources/geothermal/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20there%20were%20geothermal,U.S.%20utility%2Dscale%20electricity%20generation.&text=In%202021%2C%2027%20countries%2C%20including,of%20electricity%20from%20geothermal%20energy.">https://www.eia.gov/kids/energy-sources/geothermal/#:~:text=In%202021%2C%20there%20were%20geothermal,U.S.%20utility%2Dscale%20electricity%20geothermal%20energy.</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Geothermal Technologies Office, What is an Enhanced Geothermal System (EGS), https://www1.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/pdfs/egs\_basics.pdf.

<sup>4</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Geothermal Technologies Office, GeoVision: Harnessing the Heat Beneath Our Feet, May 2019, <a href="https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2019/06/f63/GeoVision-full-report-opt.pdf">https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2019/06/f63/GeoVision-full-report-opt.pdf</a>.

result in development timelines that are longer than those of many other power production projects.<sup>6</sup>

## H.R. 6482 (Rep. Fulcher), "Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act"

H.R. 6482 aims to streamline the permitting process for geothermal energy by exempting geothermal exploration wells (temperature gradient wells, monitoring wells, and calibration wells) from review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).<sup>7</sup> Prior to developing a geothermal facility, operators must drill exploratory wells to characterize the resource and collect data. To be eligible for the streamlining provisions, the exploration well itself must be under 13 inches in diameter, the surface disturbance must be less than 5 acres, activities must be completed in 120 days, and the site must be reclaimed within three years. The bill would also waive geotechnical investigations and road construction and maintenance (within existing rights-of-way) from NEPA.

Additionally, the bill would direct the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to designate geothermal leasing priority areas on federal lands that are economically viable for geothermal energy production and are not excluded from geothermal energy production under a land use plan. DOI would be required to reevaluate the covered lands every five years. The Secretary would also prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement for the geothermal leasing priority areas.

## H.R. 7370 (Rep. Curtis), "Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act" or the "GEO Act"

H.R. 7370 would address instances where DOI voluntarily holds up projects that already have a Record of Decision (ROD) due to DOI's fear of litigation. This has recently been the case for the Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project, which received a ROD in November of 2021<sup>8</sup> but paused construction due to the listing of the Dixie Valley toad<sup>9</sup> under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Following Section 7 consultation under the ESA, the project developer decided to reduce the footprint of the project to a single geothermal power plant with an estimated output of about 12 megawatts. The project developer was subsequently granted a new ROD to allow development. Despite the issuance of the ROD, BLM is refusing to issue notices to proceed,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Congressional Research Service, *Enhanced Geothermal Systems: Introduction and Issues for Congress*, September 29, 2022, <a href="https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47256">https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47256</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 42 USC § 4321.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Decision Record: Dixie Meadows Geothermal Utilization Project, 11/23/21,

https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\_projects/75996/200167265/20050613/250056796/DMGT%20Decision%20Record%20signed%2011\_23\_2021.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Dixie Valley Toad, 12/2/2022, <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/02/2022-26237/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-endangered-species-status-for-the-dixie-valley-toad#:~:text=SUMMARY:,%2C%20as%20amended%20(Act).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Public Law 93-205.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Geothermal developer shrinks plans after toad's endangered listing, Nevada Current, Jennifer Solis, 12/12/22, <a href="https://nevadacurrent.com/2022/12/12/geothermal-developer-shrinks-plans-after-toads-endangered-listing/">https://nevadacurrent.com/2022/12/12/geothermal-developer-shrinks-plans-after-toads-endangered-listing/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Decision Record: Dixie Meadows 12MW Geothermal Utilization Project, 11/16/22,

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{\text{https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\_projects/75996/200167265/20071516/250077698/signed\%2012mw\%20DR\_508\%20\%20with\%20correct\%20address\%20appeal\%20form.pdf.}$ 

drilling permits, and other actions because of litigation threats against the project and announced last summer that they would, instead, conduct a third review of the project.<sup>13</sup> This type of action is common practice for the Biden administration and sets a very dangerous precedent on federal lands that will chill investment.

H.R.7370 would address this issue by requiring DOI to continue processing drilling permits and other authorizations within 30 days unless a United States Federal court vacates the underlying lease. This would prevent DOI from being able to unilaterally halt permits and authorizations when there is no legal wrongdoing.

# H.R. 7409 (Rep. Kim of CA), "Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act" or the "HEATS Act"

H.R. 7409 would expedite the development of geothermal energy on non-federal lands that involve federal minerals. Currently, geothermal operators on non-federal land producing any amount of federal resources must abide by all federal laws and permitting processes, even if the share of federal minerals is minuscule. H.R. 7409 would address this issue by clarifying that geothermal exploration or production wells on non-federal lands are not subject to NEPA, <sup>14</sup> Section 7 of ESA, <sup>15</sup> or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) <sup>16</sup> if the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the subsurface geothermal estate and the operator receives a drilling permit from the respective state. To avoid the degradation of historic properties, Section 106 of NHPA would only be waived if the state in which the activity is occurring has a state law in effect that addresses the preservation of historic properties.

Currently, geothermal energy operators pay a royalty of between 1 percent and 2.5 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced during the first ten years of production and between 2 and 5 percent each year after such 10-year period. Notably, the bill would not impact the royalty paid to the federal government. Therefore, the bill would not reduce the amount of federal revenues created by geothermal production but would lighten the administrative responsibilities of federal agencies while expediting the permitting process for geothermal development.

### H.R. 7422 (Rep. Ocasio-Cortez), "Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024"

Cost recovery authority allows federal agencies to charge fees for processing applications and other documents. The authority for federal agencies to charge fees for cost recovery lies in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), <sup>18</sup> the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA), <sup>19</sup> and the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> US to reopen review of Nevada geothermal plant near endangered toad while legal battle is on hold, Scott Sonner, Associated Press, 7/14/23, <a href="https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/ap-us-news/ap-us-to-reopen-review-of-nevada-geothermal-plant-near-endangered-toad-while-legal-battle-is-on-hold/">https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/ap-us-news/ap-us-to-reopen-review-of-nevada-geothermal-plant-near-endangered-toad-while-legal-battle-is-on-hold/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 42 USC § 4321.

<sup>15 16</sup> U.S.C. 1536(a)-(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 54 U.S.C. §306108.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> 30 USC 1004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 43 U.S.C. 1734(b) and 1764(g).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> 30 U.S.C. 185(1).

Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952 (IOAA).<sup>20</sup> Additionally, Section 3021(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015<sup>21</sup> directed the BLM to collect a fee for oil and gas applications for permit to drill (APDs) from Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 through FY 2026. Before FY 2016, fees for APDs and geothermal permits to drill (GPDs) were suspended by Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct05)<sup>22</sup> from FY 2006 through FY 2015.

In 2005, BLM published a cost recovery rule<sup>23</sup> to update and create new fees and service charges for processing documents related to its mineral programs. Because the rule was finalized following the passage of EPAct05, it did not include a fee for GPDs or geothermal exploration permits, but it did include fees for other geothermal activities. In 2022, BLM updated and created new geothermal fees<sup>24</sup> but still did not include a fee for GPDs. In a 2022 renewable energy report,<sup>25</sup> BLM argued that they are unable to charge cost recovery fees for inspection and monitoring of construction, operation, and termination of geothermal facilities like they can for wind and solar under FLPMA.<sup>26</sup>

H.R. 7422 would provide DOI with explicit authority to charge geothermal leaseholders fees to recover costs for geothermal lease applications, GPDs, utilization plans, site licenses, facility construction permits, commercial use permits, other approvals associated with a geothermal lease, and inspection and monitoring of exploration activities, drilling and plugging of wells, and construction, operation, and reclamation of wells sites. The bill does not specify how the money raised by the fees will be used.

Onshore Oil and Gas

# <u>H.R. 7375</u> (Rep. Hageman), To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes.

The Mineral Leasing Act explicitly states that "lease sales shall be held for each State where eligible lands are available at least quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines such sales are necessary." In response to the Biden administration's failure to follow the law with respect to onshore oil and gas leasing, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) requires BLM to offer at least two million acres, or 50 percent of the acreage for which expressions of interest (EOI) have been submitted for lease every year for the next decade, as a prerequisite for approving permits for wind-power and solar-power development on federal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> 31 U.S.C. 9701.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 30 U.S.C. 191(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Pub. L. 109–58.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 70 FR 58854. <sup>24</sup> 87 FR 57637.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Bureau of Land Management, Public Land Renewable Energy – Fiscal Year 2021: Report to Congress, March 2022, <a href="https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-">https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-</a>

<sup>04/</sup>BLM%20Public%20Land%20Renewable%20Energy%20FY21%20Report%20to%20Congress%20v4%20508 0.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> 43 U.S.C. 1764(g).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> 30 U.S. Code § 226.

lands.<sup>28</sup> However, the BLM is currently attempting to circumvent this mandate by counting BLM-offered acreage rather than acreage submitted by operators.<sup>29</sup>

Operators submit an EOI to the BLM to nominate acreage for lease in an onshore lease sale.<sup>30</sup> EOIs were previously submitted free of cost, but the IRA<sup>31</sup> instituted a \$5.00 per acre fee for every EOI submitted to BLM.<sup>32</sup> It is important to note that the submission of an EOI does not guarantee that the nominated acreage will be offered in a lease sale.<sup>33</sup> Because EOI fees are currently required upfront and are nonrefundable, multiple operators can end up paying a fee for submitting the same acreage and paying a fee for acreage that they do not win in a lease sale.

During the week of Thanksgiving 2022, the BLM announced seven new Instruction Memoranda (IM) related to oil and gas leasing on federal lands.<sup>34</sup> Specifically, IM 2023-007<sup>35</sup> directed BLM employees to "close all EOIs that have remained pending for three or more years."<sup>36</sup> This new policy would seemingly allow the BLM to cancel EOIs after three years, forcing operators to have to resubmit acreage and repay the EOI fee every three years if the BLM does not offer the acreage, which is happening more often under the Biden administration.

H.R. 7375 aims to fix these issues and ensure fairness by directing BLM to charge the EOI fee to the winning bidder at the conclusion of a lease sale. In the case that EOI acreage is submitted and not bid on during a lease sale, the person or entity that first submitted the acreage would be required to pay the fee. The bill would also ensure that EOIs remain active for a period of at least five years.

# H.R. 7377 (Rep. Hunt), "Royalty Resiliency Act"

The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA) grants the Secretary of the Interior authority to manage and collect oil and gas royalties from leases on federal and Indian lands. This includes the establishment of a comprehensive inspection, collection, and production auditing system for accurately determining royalties, interests, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed on leases. FOGRMA also sets forth the duties of operators on oil and gas leases. For example, lessees are required to make royalty payments on time and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Public Law 117-169, Sec. 50265

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Bureau of Land Management, IM 2023-006, IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 50265 IN THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES, November 21, 2022, https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2023-006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Bureau of Land Management, Expression of Interest, <a href="https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/parcel-">https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/parcel-</a>

nominations#:~:text=An%20expression%20of%20interest%20(EOI,EOI%20submitted%20to%20the%20BLM.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Public Law No: 117-169.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Bureau of Land Management, Impacts of the IRA of 2022 to the Oil and Natural Gas Leasing Program, <a href="https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2023-">https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2023-</a>

 $<sup>\</sup>underline{008\#:} \sim : text = As\%20 required\%20 by\%20 the\%20 IRA, 30\%20 days)\%20 to\%20 submit\%20 payment.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> The BLM issues updated oil and gas leasing guidance, <a href="https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-11/Fact%20Sheet">https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-11/Fact%20Sheet</a> Oil%20and%20Gas%20Leasing%20Guidance %2011.21.22.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Bureau of Land Management, Evaluating Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Parcels for Future Lease Sales, November 21, 2022, <a href="https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2023-007">https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2023-007</a>.

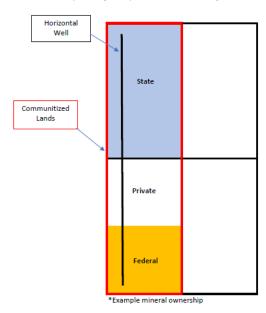
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> BOEM, Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act, <a href="https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/regulations-guidance/Federal%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Royalty%20Management%20Act.pdf">https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/about-boem/regulations-guidance/Federal%20Oil%20and%20Gas%20Royalty%20Management%20Act.pdf</a>

notify the Secretary of any assignments of interest on a lease or production on new wells. If a lessee violates these duties, DOI is authorized to impose civil penalties and criminal penalties in certain cases. DOI's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) is responsible for accounting for, verifying, and collecting mineral leasing revenues from all federal onshore areas, including oil and gas royalties covered under FOGRMA. In Fiscal Year 2023 alone, ONRR collected federal onshore oil and gas revenue totaling roughly \$7.73 billion.<sup>38</sup>

When an oil and gas project involving a federal lease cannot be independently developed because of other state or private assets, BLM may approve a communitization agreement (CA) upon a determination that it is in the public interest. CAs are essentially revenuesharing agreements for oil and gas projects that involve federal, state, and private property. BLM is responsible for approving CAs within 120 days<sup>39</sup> and determining allocations of production for royalty payments between lessees. Despite the statutory timeline, operators have experienced wait times of up to three years for CAs. In fact, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report in 2014 that

#### **Federal Communitization Agreement**

For development of multiple leases that include federal lands. (43 CFR 3105.2-3)



found that BLM has repeatedly failed to approve CAs within established timeframes.<sup>40</sup>

ONRR currently requires operators to pay a 100% royalty to the federal government until the BLM approves the CA. This is a problem because operators are forced to pay excess royalties for years while they wait for BLM approval. For example, if the mineral ownership for a project is 50% state, 25% private, and 25% federal, the operator would be required to pay a royalty of 175% until the BLM approves the CA (50% state, 25% private, and 100% federal). H.R. 7377 would solve this issue by simply requiring operators to pay based on their apportionment in their proposed CA. If the apportionment is found to be incorrect when the CA is approved (which is rare), the lessee would be required to pay the government back within three months.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> DOI, Natural Resources Revenue Data https://revenuedata.doi.gov/query-data/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> 30 U.S.C. 1721(j).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> GAO, Updated Guidance, Increased Coordination, and Comprehensive Data Could Improve BLM's Management and Oversight <a href="https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-14-238.pdf">https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-14-238.pdf</a>

#### IV. MAJOR PROVISIONS & ANALYSIS

## H.R. 6482 (Rep. Fulcher), "Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act"

- Exempts geothermal exploration wells from NEPA so long as the well is under 13 inches in diameter, disturbance is under 5 acres, activity is completed in 120 days, and the site is reclaimed within three years.
- Waives geotechnical investigations and road construction and maintenance (within existing rights-of-way) from NEPA.
- Directs DOI to designate geothermal leasing priority areas on federal lands that are economically viable for geothermal energy production.

### H.R. 7370 (Rep. Curtis), "Geothermal Energy Opportunity Act" or the "GEO Act"

• Requires DOI to continue processing geothermal drilling permits and other authorizations within 30 days unless a United States Federal court vacates the underlying lease.

# <u>H.R. 7375</u> (Rep. Hageman), To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve the assessment of expression of interest fees, and for other purposes.

- Amends the Mineral Leasing Act to require DOI to assess a fee for EOIs, but not until the conclusion of a lease sale.
- Ensures that EOIs remain active for a period of at least five years.

### H.R. 7377 (Rep. Hunt), "Royalty Resiliency Act"

- Allows lessees to pay a royalty to ONRR that is based on the apportionment in their proposed CA rather than a blanket 100%.
- If the apportionment is found to be incorrect when the CA is approved, the lessee would be required to pay the government back within three months.

# H.R. 7409 (Rep. Kim of CA), "Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act" or the "HEATS Act"

• Stipulates that geothermal wells on non-federal lands are not subject to NEPA, ESA, or NHPA if the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the geothermal estate and the operator receives a drilling permit from the respective state.

### H.R. 7422 (Rep. Ocasio-Cortez), "Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act of 2024"

- Provides DOI with explicit authority to charge fees to geothermal leaseholders fees to
  offset costs for geothermal applications, licenses, permits, approvals, inspections, and
  monitoring.
- Does not specifically stipulate how these funds will be utilized by the agency.

# V. COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored any of these bills.

# VI. ADMINISTRATION POSITION

Unknown.

# VII. EFFECT ON CURRENT LAW (RAMSEYER)

H.R. 6482

H.R. 7370

H.R. 7375

H.R. 7377

H.R. 7409

H.R. 7422