



GEOTHERMAL RISING

POWERING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE.

www.geothermal.org

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December 1, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Chairman Palone, and Ranking Member Walden, Chairwoman Johnson, and Ranking Member Lucas:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to modernize our nation's federal energy innovation programs. We write to convey our strong support for your efforts to reconcile the House-passed Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act (H.R.4447) and the Senate American Energy Innovation Act, and urge Congress to take up a final package before the 116th Congress adjourns. Enactment of a clean energy package boosts the nation's economic recovery while bolstering economic competitiveness, protecting public health and the global environment, and enhancing U.S. national security.

Geothermal Rising (formerly the Geothermal Resources Council) recognizes and agrees that climate change is an important national priority that demands Congressional attention. We are a non-profit organization supporting communication of robust research, knowledge, and guidance in geothermal energy in the United States and around the world. We were founded in 1972 and are the largest direct-membership professional and trade association serving the geothermal industry with over 1,300 members that represent a broad and diverse demographic from across the geothermal community, including developers, universities, national laboratories, government, and other non-governmental organizations.

Both the Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act and the Senate American Energy Innovation Act recognize the integral role geothermal energy technologies will play in meeting our nation's future



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energy needs by including both research, development, and demonstration policies as well as regulatory reforms that will accelerate deployment. We ask that you prioritize these provisions in a final legislative proposal:

- Increase collaboration between relevant DOE Offices and the private sector through knowledge and technique sharing with the oil and gas industry;
- Increase authorization for advanced geothermal research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of advanced technologies;
- Focus on enhanced geothermal energy systems, including expansion of the Department's Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) to additional sites;
- Encourage new research opportunities and areas to demonstrate geothermal capabilities;
- Ensure the continued operation and expansion of field research sites; and,
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers through coordinated federal permitting. Specifically, the American Energy Innovation Act includes a critical provision that streamlines permitting for geothermal resource confirmation activities. This provision alone would clear the way for numerous new geothermal projects and their associated economic and environmental benefits.

Geothermal energy is a flexible and reliable clean energy resource with immense untapped potential. A recent Department of Energy report indicated there are enough geothermal resources in the United States to produce electricity for half of the country. Advanced techniques are capable of tapping into additional resources in cooler rock or regions without water. These techniques will allow us to tap into resources nearly anywhere in the US, originally thought to be impossible.

Thank you for your continued leadership to advance American clean energy and we stand ready to help support your passage of this important legislation this Congress.

Sincerely,

Paul Thomsen
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Will Pettitt
Geothermal Rising Executive Director
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