
February 4, 2025

RE: Geothermal Rising's Support of the "STEAM Act"

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, and Staff:

Geothermal Rising writes to express support for the bipartisan and bicameral "STEAM Act" introduced by Representative Lee (D-NV), Representative Maloy (R-UT), Senator Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Senator Murkowski (R-AK). This critical bill aligns with our bi-partisan interests to responsibly scale geothermal energy—a 24/7 renewable resource—to meet America's energy dominance agenda.

Why the "STEAM" Act is crucial:

- **Parity with Oil and Gas:** The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established streamlined permitting (Categorical Exclusions, or CX) for low-impact oil and gas activities. The "STEAM Act" extends these commonsense provisions to geothermal energy, a clean baseload energy resource.
- **Balanced Energy Development with Environmental Stewardship:** By focusing on areas already studied or developed within the past five years, this bill avoids incremental environmental risks while accelerating projects in zones with proven geothermal potential. Both [conservation organizations](#) and energy advocates support this approach.
- **Economic Benefits and Meeting the Demand for Reliable Power:** Geothermal provides baseload power, direct-use heat, and high-paying jobs in rural communities. Reducing permitting delays will unlock investment in a sector poised to supply 60+ gigawatts of clean electricity by 2050.¹

Geothermal Rising believes that geothermal energy development should be done responsibly and with careful consideration of environmental impacts and we are confident that the "STEAM" Act strikes this balance. It is an important piece of legislation that will enable faster deployment of clean, baseload, abundant, reliable geothermal energy across the United States.

Again, we commend the work that went into this bill— it is reasonable and warranted, and we urge its advancement as soon as possible.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bryant Jones, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Geothermal Rising
www.geothermal.org

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2019/06/f63/GeoVision-full-report-opt.pdf>