

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10275

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain geothermal assessments for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain geothermal assessments for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Energy
5 Opportunity and Geothermal Assessment Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. GEOTHERMAL ASSESSMENTS FOR COMMON-**
7 **WEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.**

8 Section 2501 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (30
9 U.S.C. 1028) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “the Com-
2 monwealth of Puerto Rico and”;

3 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
4 section (e); and

5 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(d) PUERTO RICO.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the update
9 required under subsection (c), the Secretary of the
10 Interior, acting through the Director of the United
11 States Geological Survey, in consultation with the
12 Secretary of Energy, and in coordination with rel-
13 evant officials of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
14 and institutions of higher education, shall conduct
15 geothermal assessments, including enhanced geo-
16 thermal systems assessments, for the Commonwealth
17 of Puerto Rico.

18 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The geothermal assess-
19 ments conducted under paragraph (1) shall in-
20 clude—

21 “(A) the production of high-resolution
22 maps and supporting geospatial data consistent
23 with the requirements of subsection (c)(1)(D);

24 “(B) assessments of groundwater vulner-
25 ability associated with enhanced geothermal

1 systems exploration and development, with par-
2 ticular attention to karst terrain and other
3 highly transmissive aquifer systems; and

4 “(C) assessments of seismic hazards and
5 induced seismicity risks associated with en-
6 hanced geothermal systems exploration and de-
7 velopment.

8 “(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of the enactment of this subsection and bienni-
10 ally thereafter until the date of the completion of the
11 assessment required under paragraph (1), the Sec-
12 retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of
13 the United States Geological Survey, shall submit to
14 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
16 and Natural Resources of the Senate a report re-
17 garding the geothermal assessments required under
18 paragraph (1), including—

19 “(A) the status of each activity carried out
20 and product developed pursuant to the assess-
21 ments;

22 “(B) a description of the coordination car-
23 ried out pursuant to the assessments;

24 “(C) preliminary results of the assess-
25 ments, as available;

1 “(D) a description of obstacles to the com-
2 pletion of the assessments; and

3 “(E) the planned next steps of the Sec-
4 retary in conducting the assessments.”.

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