

Union Calendar No. 531

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5587

[Report No. 119–613]

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. GRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

APRIL 15, 2026

Additional sponsor: Mr. BEGICH

APRIL 15, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 26, 2025]

A BILL

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

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 “Harnessing Energy At*
 5 *Thermal Sources Act of 2026” or the “HEATS Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR GEOTHERMAL**
 7 **ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.**

8 *The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001*
 9 *et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

10 **“SEC. 30. NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR GEO-**
 11 **THERMAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.**

12 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require an*
 13 *operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for geothermal*
 14 *exploration and production activities conducted on a non-*
 15 *Federal surface estate, provided that—*

16 *“(1) the United States holds an ownership inter-*
 17 *est of less than 50 percent of the subsurface geo-*
 18 *thermal estate to be accessed by the proposed action;*
 19 *and*

20 *“(2) the operator submits to the Secretary a*
 21 *State permit to conduct geothermal exploration and*
 22 *production activities on the non-Federal surface es-*
 23 *tate.*

24 *“(b) NO FEDERAL ACTION.—A geothermal exploration*
 25 *and production activity carried out under subsection (a)—*

1 “(1) shall not be considered a major Federal ac-
 2 tion for the purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the Na-
 3 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

4 “(2) shall require no additional Federal action;

5 “(3) may commence 30 days after submission of
 6 the State permit to the Secretary;

7 “(4) shall not be subject to section 7 of the En-
 8 dangered Species Act of 1973; and

9 “(5) shall only be considered an undertaking
 10 under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United
 11 States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘National
 12 Historic Preservation Act’), if, with respect to the
 13 State in which the activity occurs, there is no State
 14 law in effect that addresses the preservation of his-
 15 toric properties in such State.

16 “(c) ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION ACCOUNT-
 17 ABILITY.—(1) Nothing in this section shall affect the
 18 amount of royalties due to the United States under this Act
 19 from the production of electricity using geothermal re-
 20 sources (other than direct use of geothermal resources) or
 21 the production of any byproducts.

22 “(2) The Secretary may conduct onsite reviews and in-
 23 spections to ensure proper accountability, measurement,
 24 and reporting of the production described in subsection (a),
 25 and payment of royalties.

1 “(d) *EXCEPTIONS.*—*This section shall not apply to ac-*
2 *tions on Indian lands or resources managed in trust for*
3 *the benefit of Indian Tribes.*

4 “(e) *INDIAN LAND.*—*In this section, the term ‘Indian*
5 *land’ means—*

6 “(1) *any land located within the boundaries of*
7 *an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; and*

8 “(2) *any land not located within the boundaries*
9 *of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the*
10 *title to which is held—*

11 “(A) *in trust by the United States for the*
12 *benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual In-*
13 *dian;*

14 “(B) *by an Indian tribe or an individual*
15 *Indian, subject to restriction against alienation*
16 *under laws of the United States; or*

17 “(C) *by a dependent Indian community.”.*

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