

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5617

To direct the Department of the Interior to identify and publish standard procedures and guidelines for geothermal leasing and permit issuance for environmentally responsible geothermal operations on Federal lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Ms. ANSARI (for herself and Mr. HUFFMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Department of the Interior to identify and publish standard procedures and guidelines for geothermal leasing and permit issuance for environmentally responsible geothermal operations on Federal lands.

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 “Geothermal Gold Book
5 Development Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLICATION OF “GOLD BOOK” FOR GEOTHERMAL**
2 **OPERATIONS ON FEDERAL LANDS.**

3 (a) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than one year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Department of the
5 Interior, in consultation with other relevant Federal agen-
6 cies, shall identify standard procedures and guidelines for
7 efficient and environmentally responsible geothermal leas-
8 ing and permitting.

9 (b) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after
10 identifying standard procedures and guidelines under sub-
11 section (a), the Department of the Interior shall publish
12 a “Gold Book” containing such standard procedures and
13 guidelines for use by the field offices of the Bureau of
14 Land Management and geothermal operators.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—Before publishing the Gold
16 Book, the Department of the Interior shall consult with—

17 (1) other relevant Federal agencies, including
18 field offices of the Bureau of Land Management;
19 and

20 (2) outside stakeholders, including developers
21 and other experts.

22 (d) INCLUSIONS.—The Gold Book shall include
23 standard procedures and guidelines for—

24 (1) land use planning and geothermal lease
25 sales; and

1 (2) ensuring the efficient review and approval
2 of environmentally responsible geothermal develop-
3 ment, including—

4 (A) exploration and geophysical operations;

5 (B) permitting lease operations;

6 (C) compliance with all applicable laws and
7 regulations;

8 (D) construction and maintenance;

9 (E) drilling and production operations;

10 (F) appeals; and

11 (G) relevant categorical exclusions avail-
12 able at each stage.

13 (e) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Department of the In-
14 terior shall—

15 (1) at least once every five years, review the
16 Gold Book; and

17 (2) as necessary, revise the Gold Book.

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