

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4960

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14, 2026

Mr. RISCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, 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 “Committing Leases
5 for Energy Access Now Act” or the “CLEAN Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GEOTHERMAL LEASING.**

7 (a) ANNUAL LEASING.—Section 4(b) of the Geo-
8 thermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amend-
9 ed—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “2 years” and
2 inserting “year”;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
4 paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

5 (3) after paragraph (2), by inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(3) REPLACEMENT SALES.—If a lease sale
8 under paragraph (1) for a year is canceled or de-
9 layed, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a
10 replacement sale during the same year.

11 “(4) REQUIREMENT.—Of the nominated parcels
12 eligible for geothermal development and utilization
13 under the resource management plan in effect for
14 the State, the Secretary shall, in conducting a lease
15 sale under paragraph (2), offer for lease—

16 “(A) 75 percent of such nominated parcels;
17 and

18 “(B) the remaining 25 percent of such
19 nominated parcels, unless the Secretary pro-
20 vides a written justification that identifies a
21 statutory, environmental, or administrative
22 basis that prevents the Secretary from offering
23 such nominated parcels for lease.”.

24 (b) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEO-
25 THERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—Section 4 of the Geo-

1 thermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003) is amended
2 by adding at the end the following:

3 “(h) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEO-
4 THERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—

5 “(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the
6 date on which the Secretary receives an application
7 for any geothermal drilling permit, the Secretary
8 shall—

9 “(A) provide written notice to the appli-
10 cant that the application is complete; or

11 “(B) notify the applicant that information
12 is missing and specify any information that is
13 required to be submitted for the application to
14 be complete.

15 “(2) ISSUANCE OR DEFERRAL.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30
17 days after the Secretary has provided written
18 notice to an applicant for a geothermal drilling
19 permit that the application for such permit is
20 complete pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the
21 Secretary shall—

22 “(i) issue the permit, if the require-
23 ments under the National Environmental
24 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et

1 seq.) and other applicable law have been
 2 completed within such timeframe; or

3 “(ii) defer the decision on the permit
 4 and provide to the applicant a notice—

5 “(I) that specifies any steps that
 6 the applicant could take for the per-
 7 mit to be issued; and

8 “(II) that includes a list of ac-
 9 tions that need to be taken by the
 10 agency to comply with applicable law,
 11 together with timelines and deadlines
 12 for taking such actions, which shall
 13 not exceed the deadlines specified in
 14 section 107(g) of the National Envi-
 15 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
 16 U.S.C. 4336a(g)).

17 “(B) DEADLINE FOR DEFERRED DECI-
 18 SIONS.—If the Secretary defers a decision on a
 19 permit under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Sec-
 20 retary shall issue a decision on the permit not
 21 later than 10 days after the applicant takes any
 22 steps specified pursuant to subparagraph
 23 (A)(ii)(I) and the agency takes the actions list-
 24 ed pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) in ac-

- 1 cordance with any applicable timelines and
- 2 deadlines.”.

