

PRESS RELEASE 10



Geothermal Energy Advancement Association Chairman Takes the Geothermal Mission to Capitol Hill.

LONDON – 23rd June 2023 – The Geothermal Energy Advancement Association (GEAA) Chairman Karl Farrow joined a delegation representing the geothermal industry to meet with members of the State Congressional member at Capitol Hill earlier this month other host geothermal organisations, Geothermal Rising, HEET, Project Inner Space and TXGEA.

The delegation part of a 2-day Congressional Geothermal Fly-in to Washington discussing the importance of geothermal technologies that can decarbonize buildings, generate stable and clean electricity, and leverage the existing skills and knowledge of the hydrocarbon workforce into the clean energy economy.



2024 is likely to be a tight budget year and for this reason, the geothermal industry has appropriations requests that are impactful yet require little to no new appropriations. To encourage Congress to advance the following initiatives to raise the profile of geothermal.

1. Demonstration and Deployment Funding

- Encourage the Department of Energy (DOE) to increase geothermal-specific funding for demonstration projects funded through the Office of Geothermal Rising from already appropriated Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) funding;
 - Direct DOE to identify one of the hydrogen hubs be from geothermal resources from already appropriated IIJA funding;
 - Turn back on the geothermal financial risk mitigation cost sharing programs originally authorized in the 1970s through legislation such as the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. These programs helped geothermal developers de-risk drilling and well exploration through long-term contracts and mandatory purchase obligations;
 - Empower the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to streamline geothermal permitting by establishing a national geothermal permitting office;
 - Authorize a National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 categorical exclusion specifically for renewable and carbon-free geothermal drilling and well exploration;
 - Fund a grant program through the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management to repurpose abandoned or orphaned oil and gas wells and coal mines into geothermal assets; and
 - Update federal energy incentive and subsidies data compiled by the Energy Information Agency and Congressional Research Service to illustrate the historical support received by each energy technology;
- ### 2. Raise the Profile of Geothermal Across the Federal Government
- Support the DOE Geothermal Technologies Office with a budget of \$300 million;
 - Support the DOI and BLM with specific geothermal funding to streamline geothermal permitting (\$15 million) and create a grant program for Tribal and Indigenous populations to develop geothermal resources (\$5 million);
 - Equalizing BLM decision making across offices/states with a set of standard operating procedures for geothermal permitting would greatly speed up development,
 - Allowing BLM staff to work remotely rather than relocating to spots such as Winnemucca, Nevada or Battle Mountain, Nevada would attract more candidates to help alleviate staffing issues that the geothermal industry experiences at all BLM field and district offices. With the new language in the debt ceiling bill around Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement timelines BLM is going to need to hire new staff to meet the condensed schedules.
 - Take common-sense steps to streamline permitting for geothermal projects. Congress should address the disproportionate permitting burden on low-impact geothermal activities; surge resources to expedite geothermal permitting processes and allow for quicker NEPA processes when possible.
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- Support the Economic Development Corporation within the Department of Commerce with a \$10 million grant program for municipalities, electric cooperatives, public utilities, and community choice aggregators to partner with the private sector and develop geothermal resources;
- Support the Department of Agriculture Rural Development with a \$15 million grant program for rural, isolated, or marginalized communities and companies (e.g., farmers, ranchers, food processors) to transition fossil fuel-intensive agriculture and industrial heating and cooling applications to geothermal resources;
- Support the Defense Innovation Unit at the Department of Defense to secure the nation's military installations with \$20 million to deploy geothermal power and thermal resources;
- Support the DOE Buildings Technologies Office at \$50 million to secure domestic design, manufacturing, and deployment of geothermal heat pumps; and
- Support the DOE Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains at \$100 million to secure the domestic supply chains of turbine manufacturing.

GEAA is a not-for-profit stakeholder-driven association that advocates increased investment and development in the Geothermal Energy space, building awareness of this sustainable energy providing low carbon power, heat, and hot water providing a cascade of end user benefits.

GEAA promotes geothermal, its future role within the global energy mix, the necessary policy and legal frameworks needed to accelerate its use.

GEAA's dedicated and focused "Working Groups" provide subject matter topics through webinars and focus white papers as subject matter briefing papers on key aspects of geothermal. GEAA membership is open globally to all those interested in advancing geothermal and its role in transitioning to a world using less hydrocarbons.

Founding Members of GEAA include:

Terawatt Founding Member





Megawatt Founding Member






Gigawatt Founding Member








Kilowatt Founding Member





Watt Founding Member







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