

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7370
OFFERED BY MR. CURTIS OF UTAH**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Energy
3 Opportunity Act” or the “GEO Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-
5 ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEO-
6 THERMAL LEASING.**

7 Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30
8 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(h) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS ON PROC-
11 ESSING APPLICATIONS RELATED TO GEOTHERMAL LEAS-
12 ING.—

13 “(1) REQUIREMENT TO PROCESS APPLICA-
14 TIONS.—Notwithstanding the existence of any pend-
15 ing civil action that affects an application for a geo-
16 thermal drilling permit, sundry notice, notice to pro-
17 ceed, right-of-way, or any other authorization under
18 a valid existing geothermal lease, the Secretary shall,

1 unless a United States Federal court vacates or pro-
2 vides injunctive relief for the applicable geothermal
3 lease, geothermal drilling permit, sundry notice, no-
4 tice to proceed, right-of-way, or other authorization,
5 approve and issue, or deny, each such application
6 not later than 60 days after completing all require-
7 ments under applicable Federal laws and regula-
8 tions, including the National Environmental Policy
9 Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973,
10 and division A of subtitle III of title 54, United
11 States Code.

12 “(2) NO NEW AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL
13 COURTS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
14 strued as modifying any existing authority of a Fed-
15 eral court to vacate or provide injunctive relief for
16 a geothermal lease, geothermal drilling permit, sun-
17 dry notice, notice to proceed, right-of-way, or other
18 authorization.

19 “(3) DEFINITION OF AUTHORIZATION.—In this
20 subsection, the term ‘authorization’ means any li-
21 cense, permit, approval, finding, determination, or
22 other administrative decision issued by a Federal
23 agency, or any interagency consultation, that is re-
24 quired or authorized under Federal law or regula-
25 tions in order to site, construct, reconstruct, or com-

1 mence operations of a geothermal project adminis-
2 tered by a Federal agency.”.

