

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman,

We write regarding the upcoming May 6th markup of the Natural Resources Committee Print for the soon to be released reconciliation bill. Zanskar is pleased to offer strong support for this legislative effort and commends the Committee's leadership in advancing provisions that promote responsible and streamlined geothermal development.

We applaud the inclusion of Section 80111, which mandates annual geothermal lease sales and requires "all nominated parcels" to be offered at these sales. This is a critical step toward addressing longstanding delays in the federal geothermal leasing process. For far too long, nominated geothermal parcels have sat idle due to bureaucratic inaction, hampering domestic energy development and national security while delaying revenue generation for taxpayers.

This reconciliation proposal also represents a timely opportunity for common-sense revisions that incentivize exploration beyond known geothermal resource areas (KGRAs). The Energy Policy Act of 2005 removed geothermal's "first to discover" incentive that was thoughtfully crafted in the original Geothermal Steam Act of 1970. Under current law, any resource discoveries uncovered through privately funded exploration are made available at auction to other bidders, which has effectively quenched capital flows into geothermal exploration and reduced the rate of geothermal discoveries to a trickle. Incentivizing responsible exploration outside these limited zones will help fully unlock the nation's vast geothermal potential and spur significant additional royalty revenues to the U.S. Treasury. We look forward to working with the Committee on restoring the "first to discover" language from the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

We appreciate your leadership on these key issues and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure geothermal energy plays a central role in America's energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Edwards", written in a cursive style.

Joel Edwards
CTO & Co-founder
Zanskar