

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

As you consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Energy and Water Development bill, we write to request that you include \$202 million for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO).

As a renewable energy source available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, geothermal energy offers a unique approach to ensuring reliable energy access, while addressing the effects of climate change. Coming directly from the earth's heat, geothermal resources can be used to generate electricity and heat or cool homes and buildings, while emitting no greenhouse gasses. It has the potential to be a clean domestic energy source that will allow the U.S. to further secure our energy grid, reduce our dependency on foreign sources of energy, and take forward-thinking steps to expand our domestic energy options.

DOE's Geothermal Technologies Office plays a critically important role in bringing together different industry partners for R&D opportunities to build innovative, cost-effective tools to explore and produce geothermal energy. The office works closely with six national laboratories and supports efforts that not only identify current challenges to deployment and advancement of geothermal technologies, but also provide new ideas and solutions to addressing those challenges. For example, every year, the GTO hosts an annual competition for college students to engage their communities and stakeholders in overcoming challenges in a specific application of geothermal energy. Previous winners have developed infographics and maps to create comprehensive visuals for real world solutions; and by doing this, students have been able to gain a broader understanding of new geothermal technologies, better preparing them for their entry into the workforce.


GTO is continuing to identify key research areas, including exploration and characterization, subsurface accessibility, subsurface enhancement and sustainability, resource maximization, data, modeling, and analysis, and geothermal integration and awareness to ensure the continued growth of the geothermal industry. In order to allow this research to flourish, the GTO previously received \$106 million in both FY21 and FY22 through Congressional Appropriations.

We ask that you support the President's FY23 request to increase the budget for GTO to \$202 million, which will allow the office to expand geothermal operations to reach untapped sources in an effort to diversify our energy sources and broaden economic opportunities. Western states like Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah all have significant potential for increased geothermal energy production. With additional funding, the GTO can robustly deploy their multi-year program plan across these states and the rest of the nation, constructing over 28 million geothermal heat pumps and 17,500 geothermal district heating installations by 2050.

By supporting this funding, we can grow a domestic industry that will create American jobs and transform our energy grid to be more sustainable, more secure, and more resilient as additional climate challenges arise.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,



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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator