



Geothermal Exchange Organization

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Douglas A. Dougherty • President and Chief Executive Officer

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I am writing on behalf of the Geothermal Exchange Organization (GEO) to express our support for H.R. 5374, the Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act of 2019. This bill would establish and support advanced geothermal research and development programs at the Department of Energy (DOE).

In May 2019, the DOE released *GEO VISION: Harnessing the Heat Beneath Our Feet*, a report that devoted significant attention to the tremendous potential of GHPs, the cleanest, most-efficient, and high-performing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) option. The report also identified a number of barriers that building owners and developers face to greater adoption of this technology. H.R. 5374 addresses a number of these barriers through Section 616A, which directs the DOE to improve the components, processes and systems used for GHPs with the goal of increasing energy efficiency, lowering the cost, and increasing the overall use of GHPs.

As the national trade association for the GHP industry, GEO is appreciative of this support for the advancement of research and development for GHP technology. GHPs have the potential to dramatically reduce the residential and building energy consumption that constitutes the bulk of our nation's carbon emissions and monthly energy bills.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to advance H.R. 5374.

Sincerely,

Douglas Dougherty
President and CEO
Geothermal Exchange Organization