THIRD WAY

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
United States House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I would like to express Third Way's support for the Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act of 2019. This legislation increases the research, development and demonstration of hydrothermal, general geothermal and advanced geothermal systems. It also provides funding for critical data science tools and programs for the development of a geothermal energy workforce. Robust funding and direction from Congress will allow the Department of Energy and the private sector the ability to innovate and deploy advanced geothermal resources at a greater scale and with greater speed.

Geothermal energy is a clean, flexible, and dispatchable technology that has enormous potential in the fight against climate change. A study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that firm low carbon resources like geothermal energy can reduce the cost of decarbonizing a power grid by up to 62%. While the development of natural geothermal is constrained, there is a major opportunity to scale up through enhanced geothermal systems that tap resources across a much larger region of the country.

The Advanced Geothermal Research and Development Act of 2019 recognizes clean energy development as a national priority. This legislation provides geothermal energy with the opportunity to play an instrumental role in the United States as we strive to achieve the fastest, fairest path to net-zero emissions by 2050. Third Way appreciates your leadership in securing robust funding for advanced geothermal and strongly supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

Josh Freed
Senior Vice President for Climate and Energy

1025 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 400 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 202.384.1700 • 202.775.0430 fax