

November 12, 2024

**The Honorable Young Kim**

1306 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kim,

Our Orange County-based group of 200+ nonpartisan volunteers in Citizens' Climate Lobby is writing to express our strong support for The Harnessing Energy at Thermal Sources (HEATS) Act, HR 7409.

We appreciate that this legislation would expedite geothermal energy production by clarifying that geothermal operators do not need a federal drilling permit for wells that are on state and private lands where the subsurface geothermal estate is less than 50% federal. This clarification would mirror an exemption that currently exists for similar oil and gas projects.

We are heartened that The HEATS Act would help to unlock the potential of geothermal energy as a reliable and growing source of domestic renewable energy production. Currently, geothermal power is equal to a very small total of U.S. utility-scale electricity generation. However, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the continental U.S. is capable of generating enough geothermal energy to supply 10% of the U.S. energy needs.

Geothermal power plants emit about 99% less CO<sub>2</sub> than fossil fuel power plants with similar power outputs. Additionally, geothermal is a highly reliable baseload energy source capable of generating power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, independent of weather conditions.

Our Citizens' Climate Lobby group enthusiastically supports passage of the HEATS Act, HR 7409.

*The SoCal Tri-Counties Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby is comprised of nonpartisan concerned citizens who work respectfully with our elected representatives to pass meaningful legislation that addresses the growing threats of climate change and ensures a future in which all can thrive.*

Sincerely,

*Dennis Arp*

Dennis Arp, Volunteer Group Leader, SoCal Tri-Counties Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby