



November 2, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden—

The Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) represents over 100 companies in the American geothermal power industry. That industry supports a workforce of almost 12,000 full-time jobs in the United States. Our nation's leading developers and energy producers run 104 operating plants in nine states with a nameplate capacity of 3,700 megawatts.

We urge your support for including S.1409, the “Technologies for Energy Jobs and Security Act”, within the Senate’s tax reform legislation. Though the bill is mainly known for restoring the so-called ‘orphaned’ tax extenders, it also levels the playing field for geothermal power by aligning the §48 tax credit for commercial geothermal with the tax credit commercial solar can utilize. Importantly, it does not seek to extend the existing §48 tax credit phase-down schedule.

Geothermal power is an abundant, resilient and dynamic western resource that benefits the United States economy and electricity customers. It brings economic benefits to rural communities in the form of high-wage jobs, and by paying generous royalties on public lands, as well as paying substantial state and local property, sales and employment taxes. Geothermal assets typically have 30-50 year lifecycles and the sector employs more workers during drilling, exploration, construction and power operations than any other renewable energy resource, with workforces comparable to coal, natural gas and nuclear power. Hundreds of small and large American businesses in the geothermal supply chain, together with large crews operating 24/7, help deliver this valuable renewable energy every day to the electric grid.

We urge you to support S. 1409 and new geothermal investment and jobs, while making America’s power system more reliable, resilient, and cost-effective.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Glaspey
President
Geothermal Energy Association
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