
September 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

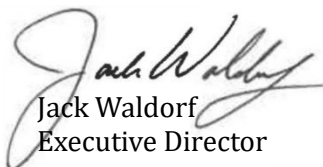
In advance of the Committee's September 16 hearing on pending legislation, attached please find Western Governors' Association (WGA) policy resolutions 2025-01, Energy in the West, and 2025-06, National Minerals Policy.

Western states possess significant geothermal energy potential and Western Governors have developed bipartisan recommendations to address barriers to geothermal energy development. These include extending regulatory efficiencies already available to oil and gas development to geothermal projects to help streamline permitting and provide greater regulatory certainty and expanding funding for geothermal demonstration projects. Improving regional resource assessments can also increase the rate of successful geothermal exploration, and Governors support the U.S. Geological Survey Earth Mapping Resources Initiative as a valuable effort to strengthen geological data available for geothermal and critical mineral development.

I request that this document be included in the permanent record of the hearing, as it articulates Western Governors' collective and bipartisan policy positions and recommendations on this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Jack Waldorf
Executive Director

Attachments