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**Heller, Wyden, Tester, and Risch Introduce Bipartisan Geothermal Jobs Bill***Legislation Aims to Strengthen Geothermal Energy Production,* *Create Jobs* **(Washington, DC) –** Earlier this week,U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Jon Tester (D-MT), and Jim Risch (R-ID) introduced the *Geothermal Energy Job Creation Act*. The bill provides geothermal energy production with much-needed attention and support so it can better compete in the current energy market. By laying out a clear set of leasing parameters and encouraging government departments to identify areas of development, geothermal production will result in economy activity and job creation across the country. “If we truly seek an all-of-the-above energy approach than that must include expanded geothermal energy production. This bipartisan legislation brings geothermal energy production into the 21st century and has the ability to create good-paying jobs, lower energy prices, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I am proud to say Nevada is one of our country’s leaders in clean energy and this will only continue with further developed geothermal energy production,” said **Senator Dean Heller.** WYDEN QUOTETESTER QUOTERISCH QUOTE**Background:** This bill opens up he current energy market toward geothermal energy production. By requiring the USGS to identify sites capable of producing 50,000 MWs of geothermal power within 10 years, we can set the stage for long-sustained production. Currently, there are no such requirements in place and areas suited for geothermal production remain untapped. Our legislation also works with the BLM, and encourages them to identify “high priority” areas where clean, geothermal energy development will make the most sense. This legislation sets the fair market value per acre that must be paid to gain a lease to develop geothermal energy. It also sets minimum and maximum lease prices, lists the standards that must be met by lessees to gain lands, and limits the amount of land that can be leased for use without a competitive bid. The *Geothermal Energy Job Creation Act* also allows geothermal energy production to work alongside current oil and gas leases and also makes it easier for geothermal producers to merge leases. Currently, these producers would need to re-apply for a new bid if they wanted to merge production. The House companion bill is [XXX.](http://www.lis.gov/cgi-lis/bdquery/D?d115,d114:1:./temp/~bdasw9:dbs=y:|//www.lis.gov:8081/billsumm/billsumm.php?id=2|)  ### |