

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 279

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

A RESOLUTION

To recognize geothermal energy as a strategic opportunity for Louisiana and commit to building the conditions necessary to scale the state's geothermal resources.

WHEREAS, advances in drilling technology pioneered by the oil and gas industry have unlocked geothermal energy development in states not traditionally associated with geothermal resources, demonstrating that subsurface expertise is the decisive advantage in scaling next-generation geothermal development; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's oil and gas workforce possesses the drilling, well integrity, reservoir management, and plant operations expertise required to build and operate geothermal systems, positioning the state to develop a geothermal industry faster and at lower cost than states without comparable human capital; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's deep well inventory, extensive subsurface data sets, and legacy oil and gas infrastructure create a foundation for geothermal development that reduces project costs and accelerates commercialization; and

WHEREAS, geothermal development draws on the same companies, workers, and supply chains that power Louisiana's natural gas industry, making the two resources complementary pillars of the state's energy economy rather than competitors for investment or workforce; and

WHEREAS, forthcoming research finds that Louisiana has significant untapped geothermal potential for electricity generation, industrial process heat, and cooling applications that could materially contribute to the state's energy needs; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy is a firm, always-on domestic energy resource that operates at approximately ninety percent capacity factor, is unaffected by weather, and delivers energy at predictable long-run cost; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's industrial sector is among the most energy-intensive in the nation, and geothermal process heat can serve as an additional energy source for

petrochemical, refining, and fertilizer operations that are among the largest contributors to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Gulf Coast climate creates substantial year-round cooling demand, and geothermal-driven cooling systems can reduce peak electricity load rather than adding to it, lowering costs for ratepayers and industry alike; and

WHEREAS, geothermal energy's largely subsurface infrastructure has demonstrated resilience to the hurricanes and severe weather events that have historically disrupted Louisiana's energy supply; and

WHEREAS, growing electricity demand from data centers, liquefied natural gas terminals, and industrial expansion creates an urgent need for firm, reliable power that geothermal is well-positioned to supply; and

WHEREAS, expanding domestic energy production across all firm resources strengthens national energy security, increases American energy dominance, and reduces dependence on foreign sources of supply; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana R.S. 30:800 already declares that state policy favors the rapid and orderly development of geothermal resources, but existing legal definitions and property frameworks do not fully reflect the technologies and applications now commercially available.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes geothermal energy development as consistent with Louisiana's existing subsurface expertise and infrastructure; recognizes that geothermal energy development can create workforce opportunity, strengthen grid reliability, and contribute to the state's energy economy; and commits to building the enabling framework necessary to bring that opportunity to scale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana finds that geothermal energy represents a significant economic and energy security opportunity for the state and urges relevant agencies to build off of and incorporate forthcoming research on Louisiana's geothermal potential into a concrete policy path that addresses the legal, regulatory, and permitting barriers that currently prevent the state from capturing that opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the policy of the state of Louisiana to pursue the legal and regulatory conditions necessary to make geothermal electricity, industrial heat, and cooling projects permittable, financeable, and replicable across the state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES