

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1637

To establish a geothermal heat pump technology acceleration program relating to General Services Administration facilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2007

Mr. INHOFE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To establish a geothermal heat pump technology acceleration program relating to General Services Administration facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGY AC-**
4 **CELERATION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
7 trator” means the Administrator of General Serv-
8 ices.

9 (2) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FA-
10 CILITY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “General
2 Services Administration facility” means any
3 building, structure, or facility, in whole or in
4 part (including the associated support systems
5 of the building, structure, or facility), that—

6 (i) is constructed (including facilities
7 constructed for lease), renovated, or pur-
8 chased, in whole or in part, by the Admin-
9 istrator for use by the Federal Govern-
10 ment; or

11 (ii) is leased, in whole or in part, by
12 the Administrator for use by the Federal
13 Government—

14 (I) except as provided in sub-
15 clause (II), for a term of not less than
16 5 years; or

17 (II) for a term of less than 5
18 years, if the Administrator determines
19 that use of cost-effective technologies
20 and practices would result in the pay-
21 back of expenses.

22 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “General Serv-
23 ices Administration facility” includes any group
24 of buildings, structures, or facilities described in
25 subparagraph (A) (including the associated en-

1 ergy-consuming support systems of the build-
2 ings, structures, and facilities).

3 (C) EXEMPTION.—The Administrator may
4 exempt from the definition of “General Services
5 Administration facility” under this paragraph a
6 building, structure, or facility that meets the re-
7 quirements of section 543(c) of Public Law 95–
8 619 (42 U.S.C. 8253(c)).

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
11 tablish a program to accelerate the use of geo-
12 thermal heat pumps at General Services Administra-
13 tion facilities.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program established
15 under this subsection shall—

16 (A) ensure centralized responsibility for
17 the coordination of geothermal heat pump rec-
18 ommendations, practices, and activities of all
19 relevant Federal agencies;

20 (B) provide technical assistance and oper-
21 ational guidance to applicable tenants to
22 achieve the goal identified in subsection
23 (c)(2)(B)(ii); and

1 (C) establish methods to track the success
2 of Federal departments and agencies with re-
3 spect to that goal.

4 (c) ACCELERATED USE OF GEOTHERMAL HEAT
5 PUMP TECHNOLOGIES.—

6 (1) REVIEW.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program
8 under this section, not later than 90 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
10 trator shall conduct a review of—

11 (i) current use of geothermal heat
12 pump technologies in General Services Ad-
13 ministration facilities; and

14 (ii) the availability to managers of
15 General Services Administration facilities
16 of geothermal heat pumps.

17 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The review under
18 subparagraph (A) shall—

19 (i) examine the use of geothermal heat
20 pumps by Federal agencies in General
21 Services Administration facilities; and

22 (ii) as prepared in consultation with
23 the Administrator of the Environmental
24 Protection Agency, identify geothermal
25 heat pump technology standards that could

1 be used for all types of General Services
2 Administration facilities.

3 (2) REPLACEMENT.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program
5 under this section, not later than 180 days
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
7 ministrator shall establish, using available ap-
8 propriations, a geothermal heat pump tech-
9 nology acceleration program to achieve max-
10 imum feasible replacement of existing heating
11 and cooling technologies with geothermal heat
12 pump technologies in each General Services Ad-
13 ministration facility.

14 (B) ACCELERATION PLAN TIMETABLE.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—To implement the
16 program established under subparagraph
17 (A), not later than 1 year after the date of
18 enactment of this Act, the Administrator
19 shall establish a timetable, including mile-
20 stones for specific activities needed to re-
21 place existing heating and cooling tech-
22 nologies with geothermal heat pump tech-
23 nologies, to the maximum extent feasible
24 (including at the maximum rate feasible),

1 at each General Services Administration
2 facility.

3 (ii) GOAL.—The goal of the timetable
4 under clause (i) shall be to complete, using
5 available appropriations, maximum feasible
6 replacement of existing heating and cooling
7 technologies with geothermal heat pump
8 technologies by not later than the date that
9 is 5 years after the date of enactment of
10 this Act.

11 (d) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FACILITY
12 GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGIES AND PRAC-
13 TICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Adminis-
15 trator shall—

16 (1) ensure that a manager responsible for accel-
17 erating the use of geothermal heat pump tech-
18 nologies is designated for each General Services Ad-
19 ministration facility geothermal heat pump tech-
20 nologies and practices facility; and

21 (2) submit to Congress a plan, to be imple-
22 mented to the maximum extent feasible (including at
23 the maximum rate feasible) using available appro-
24 priations, by not later than the date that is 5 years
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, that—

1 (A) includes an estimate of the funds nec-
2 essary to carry out this section;

3 (B) describes the status of the implementa-
4 tion of geothermal heat pump technologies and
5 practices at General Services Administration fa-
6 cilities, including—

7 (i) the extent to which programs, in-
8 cluding the program established under sub-
9 section (b), are being carried out in ac-
10 cordance with this Act; and

11 (ii) the status of funding requests and
12 appropriations for those programs;

13 (C) identifies within the planning, budg-
14 eting, and construction processes, all types of
15 General Services Administration facility-related
16 procedures that inhibit new and existing Gen-
17 eral Services Administration facilities from im-
18 plementing geothermal heat pump technologies;

19 (D) recommends language for uniform
20 standards for use by Federal agencies in imple-
21 menting geothermal heat pump technologies
22 and practices;

23 (E) in coordination with the Office of Man-
24 agement and Budget, reviews the budget proc-

1 ess for capital programs with respect to alter-
2 natives for—

3 (i) permitting Federal agencies to re-
4 tain all identified savings accrued as a re-
5 sult of the use of geothermal heat pump
6 technologies; and

7 (ii) identifying short- and long-term
8 cost savings that accrue from the use of
9 geothermal heat pump technologies and
10 practices;

11 (F) achieves substantial operational cost
12 savings through the application of geothermal
13 heat pump technologies; and

14 (G) includes recommendations to address
15 each of the matters, and a plan for implementa-
16 tion of each recommendation, described in sub-
17 paragraphs (A) through (F).

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
20 essary to carry out this section, to remain available until
21 expended.

○