## Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law. Act 697 of the Regular Session

1	State of Arkansas	A Bill	
2	94th General Assembly		SENATE BILL 433
3	Regular Session, 2023		SENATE DILL 433
4	Dry Canatar Invin		
5	By: Senator Irvin		
6		For An Act To Be Entitled	
7 8	AN ACT TO	ABOLISH THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL SUR	VEV. TO
9		E OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST; TO	•
10		RITY AND DUTIES OF THE ARKANSAS GEOLG	
11		THE OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST;	
12		N EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	10
13	DECLARE A	N EMERGENCI; AND FOR OTHER TORIOSES.	
14			
15		Subtitle	
16	TO A	ABOLISH THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL	
17		VEY; TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF THE STAT	'E
18		LOGIST AND TRANSFER THE AUTHORITY AND	
19		LES OF THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	
20		THE OFFICE; AND TO DECLARE AN	
21		RGENCY.	
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23			
24	BE IT ENACTED BY THE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARK	ANSAS:
25			
26	SECTION 1. DO	NOT CODIFY. Abolition of the Arkans	as Geological Survey
27	- Transfer to the Off	ice of the State Geologist.	
28	(a) The Arkans	as Geological Survey is abolished, a	nd its authority,
29	duties, functions, re	cords, contracts, personnel, property	y, and unexpended
30	balances of appropria	tions, allocations, and other funds,	including the
31	functions of budgetin	g or purchasing of the Arkansas Geol	ogical Survey, are
32	transferred to the Of	fice of the State Geologist within t	he Oil and Gas
33	Commission.		
34	(b) The Arkans	as Geological Survey's statutory power	ers, duties, and
35	functions, including	the functions of budgeting or purchase	sing, records,
36	contracts, personnel,	property, and unexpended balances of	f appropriations,

- 1 allocations, and other funds are transferred to the Office of the State 2 Geologist within the Oil and Gas Commission. 3 (c)(1) The abolishment of the Arkansas Geological Survey does not 4 affect the orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, or standards 5 made or promulgated by the Arkansas Geological Survey before the effective 6 date of this act. 7 (2) The orders, rules, directives, registration, licensing, or 8 standards of the Arkansas Geological Survey shall continue to be in effect 9 until they are amended or repealed under authority given by this law. 10 11 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 8-4-104(b)(2)(G), concerning membership of 12 the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, is amended to read as 13 follows: 14 The State Geologist, or his or her designee, on behalf 15 of the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist. 16 17 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 14-229-101(b)(11), concerning membership of 18 the Individual Sewage Disposal Systems Advisory Committee, is amended to read 19 as follows: 20 (11) The State Geologist with the Arkansas Geological Survey 21 Office of the State Geologist or a designee. 22 23 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-10-304(b)(7), concerning ongoing studies 24 and recommendations related to the presence of special nuclear material and 25 by-product material and from the operation of production facilities or 26 utilization facilities related to natural resources of the state, is amended 27 to read as follows: 28 (7) The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State 29 Geologist, particularly as to the hazards, if any, to the natural resources 30 of the state, including wildlife, and as to the protection, if necessary, of 31 rivers, streams, and airspace from pollution; and 32
- 33 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 15-21-602(b)(6), concerning duties of the 34 Arkansas Seismological Observatory, is amended to read as follows:
- 35 (6) Provide real-time, immediate data regarding seismic activity 36 to government agencies such as the Arkansas Department Division of Emergency

- 1 Management, the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, and
- 2 critical facilities that operate in the region such as Arkansas Nuclear One,
- 3 the National Center for Toxicological Research, and the Army Nerve Gas
- 4 Facility; and

- 6 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 55, Subchapter 2 is amended 7 to read as follows:
- 8 Subchapter 2 Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist

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- 10 15-55-201. Office of the State Geologist Creation.
- There is created and established at the seat of government of this state within the Oil and Gas Commission the "Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist".

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- 16 (a) The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist shall
  17 consist of seven (7) members, residents and electors of this state, to be
  18 appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate
  19 the State Geologist and his or her staff.
- 20 (b) Each congressional district shall be represented by membership on 21 the survey.
  - (c) Terms of office shall commence on January 15 following the expiration date of the prior term and shall end on January 14 of the seventh year following the year in which the term commenced.
  - (d) Any vacancies arising in the membership of the survey for any reason other than expiration of the regular terms for which the members were appointed shall be filled by appointment by the Governor, to be thereafter effective until the expiration of the regular terms, subject, however, to the confirmation of the Senate when it is next in session.
  - (e) Before entering upon his or her duties, each member of the survey shall take and subscribe, and file in the office of the Secretary of State, an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Arkansas, and to faithfully perform the duties of the office upon which he or she is about to enter.
  - (f) Members of the survey shall receive no pay for their services but may receive expense reimbursement and stipends in accordance with § 25-16-901

1	et seq The office shall be under the direct control and supervision of the
2	Director of Production and Conservation.
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4	15-55-203. Organization Meetings.
5	(a) The Arkansas Geological Survey shall from time to time select from
6	its membership a chair and a vice chair.
7	(b) The State Geologist, provided for in § 15-55-204, shall be ex
8	officio secretary of the commission, but shall have no vote on matters coming
9	before it.
10	(c)(1) The survey shall adopt, and may modify, rules for the conduct
11	of its business and shall keep a record of its transactions, findings, and
12	determinations, which record shall be public.
13	(2) The rules shall provide for regular meetings and for special
14	meetings at the call of the chair, or the vice chair if he or she is, for any
15	reason, the acting chair, either at his or her own instance or upon the
16	written request of at least four (4) members.
17	(d) A quorum shall consist of not less than four (4) members present
18	at any regular or special meeting, and the affirmative vote of such number
19	shall be necessary for the disposition of any business.
20	(e) The commission shall meet at such times and places as in each
21	instance may suit the survey's convenience, and all such meetings shall be
22	open to the public.
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24	15-55-204. State Geologist.
25	(a)(l) The State Geologist shall be appointed by and serve at the
26	pleasure of the Governor.
27	(2) The State Geologist shall report to the <u>Director of</u>
28	Production and Conservation and the Secretary of the Department of Energy and
29	Environment.
30	(b) He or she The State Geologist shall:
31	(1) Be charged with the duty of administering the provisions of
32	this subchapter and, the rules and orders established thereunder under this
33	subchapter, performing services requested by the director, and administering
34	specified provisions of Title 15, Chapter 71, and rules and orders
35	established under Title 15. Chapter 71: and

(2) Be custodian of all property held in the name of the

- 1 Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, and shall be, ex
- 2 officio, in consultation with the director and the Secretary of the
- 3 Department of Energy and Environment secretary, the disbursing agent of all
- 4 funds available for its use; and.
- 5 (3) Furnish bond to the state, with corporate surety thereon, in
- 6 the penal sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), conditioned that he or she
- 7 will faithfully perform his or her duties of employment and properly account
- 8 for all funds received and disbursed by him or her. An additional disbursing
- 9 agent's bond shall not be required of the State Geologist. The bond so
- 10 furnished shall be filed with the Secretary of State, and an executed
- 11 counterpart thereof shall be filed with the Auditor of State.
- 12 (c) The Arkansas Geological Survey, by resolution duly adopted, may
- 13 delegate to the State Geologist any of the powers or duties vested in or
- 14 imposed upon it by this subchapter, and the delegated powers and duties may
- 15 be exercised by the State Geologist in the name of the Arkansas Geological
- 16 Survey The State Geologist may delegate his or her functions, powers, and
- 17 duties as he or she may deem desirable and necessary for the effective and
- 18 efficient operation of the office.
- 19 <u>(d) In addition to other duties and functions prescribed for the State</u>
- 20 Geologist, he or she shall advise the director, the secretary, the Governor,
- 21 and the General Assembly, on all geological matters concerning the state.

- 23 15-55-205. Geological assistants and engineers.
- 24 (a) It shall be the duty of the State Geologist, by and with the
- 25 approval of the Arkansas Geological Survey Director of Production and
- 26 Conservation and the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Environment,
- 27 to appoint trained geological assistants, engineers, and others efficient in
- 28 the arts and sciences as may be necessary to completely carry on the
- 29 investigations undertaken.
- 30 (b) The State Geologist, assistants, and engineers, are directed to go
- 31 into any mine or other place, where it is thought necessary by the State
- 32 Geologist to go, in executing the directions of the Arkansas Geological
- 33 Survey director or the Department of Energy and Environment.

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- 15-55-206. Office Seal.
  - (a) The officer or commission having custody of the public buildings

- 1 shall assign to the Arkansas Geological Survey suitable office space in the 2 State Capitol Building, or other office building located on the State Capitol 3 grounds, with the necessary conveniences for the transaction of its business 4 and the safekeeping of its records. 5 (b) The Governor shall procure an official seal for the use of the 6 commission. 7 8 15-55-207. Powers. 9 The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist shall also 10 have the authority to: 11 (1)(A) Enter into cooperative agreements with the United States 12 Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior in relation to programs 13 concerning quality of water, occurrence of ground water, stream gauging, mineral investigations, topographic mapping, and other federal programs 14 15 relating to the functions performable by the commission office; 16 (B) Make copies of the reports prepared under those 17 programs available to other state agencies, including, but not limited to, 18 those agencies whose principal functions relate to industrial development and 19 water and soil conservation; 20 (2)(A) Receive and expend any moneys arising from federal means, 21 grants, contributions, gratuities reimbursements, or loans payable or 22 distributable to the State of Arkansas by the United States, or by any of its 23 agencies or instrumentalities, pursuant to any congressional act or rule or 24 regulation of the agency or instrumentality enacted or promulgated for or on 25 account of any functions performable by the commission office. 26 (B) It The office shall likewise receive any 27 contributions, grants, or gratuities donated by private persons, 28 associations, or corporations, for or on account of any of the functions
- 30 <u>(C)</u> The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall prescribe 31 rules for handling the moneys;
  - (3) Contract and be contracted with; and
- 33 (4) Take other action, not inconsistent with law, as it the
  34 office deems necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes and intent of
  35 this subchapter.

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aforesaid.

- 1 15-55-208. Duties.
- 2 (a) It shall be the duty of the <del>commission to direct the</del> Office of the 3 State Geologist, in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, to:
- 4 (1) Investigate, or to have investigated, such of the natural
- 5 resources of the state, consisting of the available waterpower of the
- 6 streams, the clays of the state as related to their adaptability to the
- 7 various purposes for which clays are utilized, the cement materials of the
- 8 state, the road materials of the state, and such other minerals and economic
- 9 geologic products, as it may be deemed practicable and advisable by the
- 10 commission office to have investigated; and
- 11 (2) Prepare or have prepared topographic maps deemed advisable.
  - (b) The Arkansas Geological Survey office may direct the State
- 13 Geologist to:
- 14 (1) Make or have made investigations deemed advisable relating 15 to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources;
- 16 (2) In cooperation with the United States Geological Survey,
- 17 make investigations deemed advisable relating to the safety of miners and
- 18 mine operations; and
- 19 (3) Adopt measures deemed practicable to assist mine operators
- 20 in preventing explosions and give relief in case explosions occur.

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- 15-55-209. Notice to agencies of location and extent of state
- 23 minerals.
- 24 From time to time, the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State
- 25 Geologist shall bring to the attention of the appropriate federal agencies,
- 26 state and local industrial development agencies, and industrial interests the
- 27 location and extent of minerals in the state which may be of value to, and
- 28 beneficial in, any programs of national defense or the development of
- 29 industry.

- 31 15-55-210. Reports of investigations.
- 32 (a) It shall be the duty of the Office of the State Geologist to make
- 33 reports to the Arkansas Geological Survey as necessary to a complete an
- 34 understanding of the results obtained from investigations undertaken and to
- 35 perform other duties as usually belong to the Office of State Geologist.
- 36 (b) The reports shall be accompanied by maps, sections, and other

- 1 illustrations as necessary to a complete understanding.
- 2 (c) The cost of publishing the reports shall be paid out of money
  3 appropriated for public printing.
- 4 (d) The number of copies of each report shall be four thousand 5 (4,000). The members of the General Assembly, the survey, and the State 6 Geologist shall each have twenty (20) copies. One (1) copy shall be sent to 7 each of the state universities of the country. One hundred (100) copies shall 8 be sent to the Department of Geology, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, 9 for exchange with other state geological surveys. The remainder shall be 10 distributed by the State Ceologist, without charge, upon application and the 11 receipt of the necessary postage or expressage.

- 13 15-55-211. State and federal expense sharing.
- 14 (a) The State of Arkansas shall pay the portion of the field and
  15 traveling expenses, including salaries, as agreed upon between the Arkansas
  16 Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, with approval of the
  17 Director of Production and Conservation, and the United States Geological
  18 Survey.
  - (b) The full and complete results of the surveys shall be available for publication in the state reports.
- 21 (c) The expense of the office work for the state reports shall be 22 borne by the state.

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24 15-55-212. Deposit of moneys into State Treasury.

The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist shall deposit all moneys received from the sale of its publications and from other sources in into the State Treasury to the credit of the fund from which the commission is operated, unless provisions shall have otherwise been made by law.

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- 31 15-55-213. Access to information.
  - The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist and the Division of Information Systems shall grant access to and provide information determined by the Commissioner of State Lands to be necessary to successfully accomplish its the Commissioner of State Lands' mission.

- 1 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 15-55-302(b), concerning the free access to 2 public records by the geological corp, is amended to read as follows:
  - (b) The geological corps Office of the State Geologist shall have access at all times to the field notes and maps of the Office of Commissioner of State Lands Commissioner of State Lands' office, and to the records and reports of the State Mine Inspector, the Oil and Gas Commission, the county clerk of any county, or to the public record of any state department or county official without the payment of any fee.

- SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 15-55-402(3), concerning research agreements between academic institutions of higher education or industry partners, or both, and the Arkansas Geological Survey, is amended to read as follows:
  - Arkansas Geological Commission, Office of the State Geologist is interested in developing a research agreement with academic institutions of higher education or industry partners, or both, for purposes of pursuing a research program on Arkansas lignite and lignite's commercial and economic contributions to the state;

- SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 15-55-403(b), concerning the development and administration of the Arkansas Lignite Resources Pilot Program, is amended to read as follows:
- (b) The program shall be developed and administered by Southern Arkansas University, the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

- 28 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 15-55-405 is amended to read as follows: 29 15-55-405. Reporting.
- Representatives from Southern Arkansas University, the Arkansas

  Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, and the Arkansas Economic

  Development Commission shall report the status of the Arkansas Lignite

  Resources Pilot Program periodically to the Legislative Council and the Joint

  Committee on Energy.

36 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 15-57-315(8)(A), concerning the duties of

- 1 an operator of an open-cut mine, is amended to read as follows:
- 2 (8)(A) The division's approval of the operator's reclamation
- 3 plan may be based upon the advice and technical assistance of the Arkansas
- 4 Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission,
- 5 the State Forester, the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State
- 6 Geologist, and other agencies or persons having experience in foresting and
- 7 reclaiming open-cut mined lands with forest or agronomic or horticultural
- 8 species, based upon scientific knowledge from research into reclaiming and
- 9 utilizing forest and agronomic species on open-cut mined lands.

- SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 17-32-201(a)(3), concerning membership of
- 12 the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, is amended to
- 13 read as follows:
- 14 (3) The board shall comprise:
- 15 (A) Five (5) members who shall be registered geologists,
- 16 one (1) of whom shall be an academic geologist, one (1) a governmental
- 17 geologist, one (1) a salaried company geologist, one (1) an independent or
- 18 consultant geologist, and one (1) a geologist-at-large;
- 19 (B) One (1) additional member who shall be appointed from
- 20 the public at large and who shall have no connection whatsoever with the
- 21 practice of geology; and
- 22 (C) The <del>Director of the Arkansas Geological Survey</del> State
- 23 Geologist, or his or her designated agent, as a permanent ex officio member.

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- 25 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 17-32-203(b), concerning temporary
- 26 assistance to the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists, is
- 27 amended to read as follows:
- 28 (b) Administrative assistance, clerical work, and supplies will be
- 29 provided by the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist
- 30 until such time as the board may assume those responsibilities.

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- 32 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 19-4-906(a)(3)(020), concerning
- 33 authorizations and restrictions related to passenger motor vehicle limits of
- 34 certain state entities, is amended to read as follows:
- 35 (020) Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist 18

1	SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 19-4-1804 is amended to read as follows:
2	19-4-1804. Geological publications income.
3	Charges, income, receipts, or revenue derived from the sale of
4	publications by the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist
5	shall be deposited into the State Treasury as a refund to expenditures.
6	
7	SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 19-5-1067(b), concerning moneys within the
8	Geology Map Resale Revolving Fund Account, is amended to read as follows:
9	(b) The fund shall consist of moneys received from the resale of
10	publications of maps by the Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State
11	Geologist, there to be used for personal services and operating expenses
12	relating to the purchase of publications of maps for resale by the Arkansas
13	Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist, as authorized in Acts 1975,
14	No. 80, § 6.
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16	SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 19-6-410 is amended to read as follows:
17	19-6-410. Oil and Gas Commission Fund.
18	The Oil and Gas Commission Fund shall consist of those special revenues
19	as specified in $\$$ 19-6-301(62) and (111), there to be used for:
20	(1) the The maintenance, operation, and improvement required by
21	the Oil and Gas Commission in carrying out the functions, powers, and duties
22	as set out in § 15-72-101 et seq. <del>;</del>
23	(2) Payment of expenses of the Office of the State Geologist
24	under § 15-71-107(b)(2)(B); or
25	(3) other Other duties imposed by law upon the commission.
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27	SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 19-7-405 is amended to read as follows:
28	19-7-405. Geological and Conservation Federal Fund.
29	(a) There is created and established in the Treasurer of State's
30	office a fund to be known as the "Geological and Conservation Federal Fund".
31	(b) Federal funds as may be allotted to the Planning Division of the
32	Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State Geologist are to be deposited
33	into the fund.
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35	SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 22-5-807(a), concerning an application for

a lease or permit filed with the Commissioner of State Lands, is amended to

1	read as follows:
2	(a) When an application for a lease or permit is filed with the
3	Commissioner of State Lands for the taking or production of any sand, gravel,
4	oil, natural gas, casinghead gas, coal, or other minerals or the severance of
5	any timber or logs from state-owned lands, the Commissioner of State Lands
6	shall so notify the $\frac{Arkansas\ Geological\ Survey}{Constant}$
7	the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Oil and Gas Commission, the
8	Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, the Department of Parks, Heritage,
9	and Tourism, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Arkansas Forestry
10	Commission, and any other appropriate state agency that has or may have a
11	particular interest in the area proposed to be covered by the lease or
12	permit.
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14	SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 25-16-903(46), concerning the
15	authorization for a stipend for the Arkansas Geological Survey, is repealed.
16	(46) Arkansas Geological Survey;
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18	SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 25-43-602(a)(3), concerning the
19	administrative functions of certain state entities transferred to the
20	Department of Energy and Environment, is amended to read as follows:
21	(3) The Arkansas Geological Survey Office of the State
22	<pre>Geologist, created under § 15-55-201;</pre>
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24	SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 26-58-101(5)(A), concerning the definition
25	of "high-cost gas" related to severance taxes, is amended to read as follows:
26	(5) "High-cost gas" means natural gas that is:
27	(A) Produced from any gas well completed within a shale
28	formation, including, but not limited to, the Fayetteville Shale, the
29	Woodford Shale, the Moorefield Shale, and the Chattanooga Shale formations,
30	or their stratigraphic equivalents, as described in published stratigraphic
31	nomenclature recognized by the ${\underline{\tt Arkansas-Geological\ Survey}}$ ${\underline{\tt Office\ of\ the\ State}}$
32	<pre>Geologist;</pre>
33	
34	SECTION 23. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
35	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the state has a critical

interest in ensuring the efficient provision of services by state agencies;

1	that state agencies operate on a fiscal year calendar; and that the
2	effectiveness of this act on July 1, 2023, is essential to the efficient
3	operation of the state agencies subject to this act; and that, in the event
4	of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in effective date of
5	this act beyond July 1, 2023, could cause irreparable harm upon the proper
6	administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore,
7	an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being necessary for the
8	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
9	on July 1, 2023.
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12	APPROVED: 4/11/23
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