

House Joint Memorial 19

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT, Senator KNOPP

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Secretary of Energy and Congress to support siting of United States Department of Energy's Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy at Newberry Geothermal Project.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the Secretary of Energy and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States
2 of America, in Congress assembled:

3 We, your memorialists, the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in leg-
4 islative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas the purpose of the United States Department of Energy's Frontier Observatory for
6 Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) is to perform advanced research on enhanced geothermal
7 systems (EGS) for the purpose of developing large-scale, economically sustainable heat exchange
8 systems; and
9

10 Whereas geothermal exploration began at the Newberry Volcano in central Oregon in the 1970s;
11 and

12 Whereas the Newberry Geothermal Project owned and operated by AltaRock Energy, Inc., lo-
13 cated atop high-temperature basement rock within three miles of the surface, is the world's most
14 advanced multizone EGS; and

15 Whereas the Newberry Geothermal Project is home to the most advanced testing and monitoring
16 system and protocols for EGS, in use for more than five years, in the world; and

17 Whereas AltaRock Energy, Inc., has been working closely with the United States Department
18 of Energy for five years in monitoring and reviewing test results at the Newberry Geothermal
19 Project, demonstrating cooperative efforts and developing experience and capability; and

20 Whereas the Newberry Geothermal Project has an available existing developed geothermal pad
21 with monitoring systems already in place, making it ideal for siting FORGE at Newberry; and

22 Whereas there is overwhelming statewide and community support for siting FORGE at
23 Newberry Geothermal Project, as demonstrated by letters of support from Senator Ron Wyden,
24 Senator Jeff Merkley, Oregon State University-Cascades Campus, the Deschutes County Board of
25 Commissioners, Economic Development for Central Oregon, the Bend City Council, the La Pine City
26 Council, the Bend Chamber of Commerce, the La Pine Chamber of Commerce and the Sunriver
27 Owners Association; and

28 Whereas the siting of FORGE at Newberry Geothermal Project also has the support of Governor
29 Kate Brown; and

30 Whereas siting FORGE at Newberry Geothermal Project will bring much-needed economic
31 growth, development, job creation and educational opportunities to central Oregon, with 310

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 person-years in construction and manufacturing employment required to build the field laboratory
2 and 100 permanent jobs in research, project operation and education required to operate the site
3 into the future; and

4 Whereas FORGE research will develop new technology to improve the outcome of EGS project
5 development; and

6 Whereas the three developed pads at Newberry Geothermal Project support 150 to 180 mega-
7 watts of power production, while 40,000 acres of additional leased land is available at Newberry to
8 site additional geothermal pads, which will translate to several hundred construction jobs during
9 development over many years and around 300 permanent, high-paying jobs in perpetuity for opera-
10 tion of existing pads alone; and

11 Whereas AltaRock Energy, Inc., has partners in the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and
12 the Oregon State University-Cascades Campus, both of which will make invaluable contributions to
13 the operation and development of FORGE project efforts; and

14 Whereas the siting of FORGE at Newberry Geothermal Project will sustain the mission of the
15 FORGE project to enable state-of-the-art research and testing of, and to allow scientists to identify
16 a replicable commercial pathway to, EGS; and

17 Whereas geography, industry, scientific scholarship and broad community support make the
18 Newberry Geothermal Project's facilities an ideal location for FORGE and its objectives; now,
19 therefore,

20 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

21 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Secre-
22 tary of Energy and the Congress of the United States of America to support selection of the
23 Newberry Geothermal Project owned and operated by AltaRock Energy, Inc., in cooperation with
24 the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Oregon State University-Cascades Campus, as the
25 site for the United States Department of Energy's Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal
26 Energy (FORGE); and be it further

27 Resolved, That we recognize and support the unique capabilities of the Newberry Geothermal
28 Project to best serve the mission of FORGE and to further research into the science of enhanced
29 geothermal systems (EGS); and be it further

30 Resolved, That the siting of FORGE at the Newberry Geothermal Project will not only benefit
31 Oregon industry and residents, but will result in invaluable data collection and dissemination and
32 development of sustainable processes to commercialize EGS that will benefit the country as a whole;
33 and be it further

34 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Secretary of Energy, to the Senate
35 Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon
36 Congressional Delegation.

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