

Enrolled
House Bill 3089

Sponsored by Representatives BENTZ, WITT; Senator JOHNSON

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to mining; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) Mining contributes to the economy and well-being of the people of Oregon. Mining creates high-paying jobs in parts of this state that, due to a lack of infrastructure and development, are less likely to be capable of diversifying beyond a regional economy based on natural resources. Mining creates secondary industries in the surrounding region and attracts numerous providers of goods and services. Mining also generates significant tax revenues for local governments and provides support for civic and educational projects in local communities.

(2) The mining of minerals is a natural resource use.

(3) In eastern Oregon, including Lake, Harney, Malheur, Baker and Grant Counties, diversifying the types of natural resource uses that contribute to local economies enables those economies to better withstand temporary economic declines that affect specific natural resource uses. In the same way that a diversified economy is good for a large metropolitan area, a diversified natural resource economy is good for eastern Oregon.

(4) Technological advances in the mining industry, coupled with reclamation efforts, have greatly reduced the environmental impacts of mining operations. The size and scope of modern operations is such that the operations do not cause interference with other natural resource uses, particularly in an area as vast as eastern Oregon.

(5) Mining operations should be encouraged and supported in eastern Oregon as a means for residents and communities to improve their economies and well-being.

SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shall conduct a study of the mineral resource potential of eastern and southern Oregon counties and present the results of the study in a report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment and natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, on or before September 15, 2016.

(2) The study shall include:

(a) A list of all relevant mineral inventories and studies previously completed by the department;

(b) A description of the estimated costs to the department for making the results of mineral inventories available online;

(c) A review of the mineral resource potential of eastern and southern Oregon counties based on published data and research previously completed and available to the department,

including an assessment of which metallic and industrial mineral commodities are most likely to be economically developable; and

(d) Recommendations, including estimated related costs, for the department to engage in continued mineral resource potential assessment activities in eastern and southern Oregon through the use of the department's existing personnel.

(3) The department shall post the study conducted pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section on the department's website.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is repealed on January 2, 2017.

SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$25,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2015 Act.

SECTION 5. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House July 1, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate July 2, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2015

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2015

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Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State