

Enrolled
House Joint Memorial 19

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT, Senator KNOPP; Representatives MCLANE, WHITSETT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas siting FORGE at Newberry Geothermal Project will bring much-needed economic growth, development, job creation and educational opportunities to central Oregon, with 310 person-years in construction and manufacturing employment required to build the field laboratory and 100 permanent jobs in research, project operation and education required to operate the site into the future; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by House April 23, 2015

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 26, 2015

Peter Courtney, President of Senate