

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 7

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
3 ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
4 IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
5 OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, at the direction of the United States government, since 1949
10 the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has been a research and technology
11 leader and has made key contributions in energy research, development,
12 demonstration and deployment; and

13 WHEREAS, INL's strategic location within today's Western Inland En-
14 ergy Corridor enables its researchers to most effectively and efficiently
15 identify, assess and integrate the region's unmatched wind, biomass, hy-
16 dropower, geothermal, conventional and unconventional fossil and uranium
17 resources; and

18 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Idaho and the United States to in-
19 crease energy self-sufficiency and supply diversity, while moderating the
20 environmental impacts of energy exploration, production, distribution and
21 end use; and

22 WHEREAS, conventional geothermal power plants, such as Raft River in
23 Cassia County, are located in favorable geothermal regions where high-tem-
24 perature groundwater is accessible in the relatively shallow subsurface and
25 coincides with naturally occurring high-permeability pathways; and

26 WHEREAS, Idaho's high-temperature gradients, abundant groundwater
27 and favorable seismic conditions in the Eastern Snake River Plain make it
28 an ideal location to develop enhanced geothermal system technologies and
29 techniques to access resources in the high heat zones of deeper, low-per-
30 meability geologic formations; potentially creating a breakthrough for
31 geothermal in the region and the nation; and

32 WHEREAS, a dedicated and nationally recognized, multi-institutional
33 scientific team, known as the Snake River Geothermal Consortium, has been
34 assembled to lead this effort; and

35 WHEREAS, successful research and development of enhanced geother-
36 mal systems will lead to commercialization of this technology to provide
37 baseload electricity production, jobs and significant investment in the
38 region.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
40 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
41 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature supports Idaho's host-
42 ing of an enhanced geothermal system test site and encourages the Department
43 of Energy, the Administration and Congress to join Idaho in exploring the fa-

1 vorable geologic conditions of the Geothermal Resource Research Area on the
2 western edge of INL.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests that
4 the Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress join Idaho in rec-
5 ognizing Idaho National Laboratory's research and technology development
6 leadership and recommending establishment of a field laboratory at Idaho
7 National Laboratory to develop enhanced geothermal system production.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
9 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
10 Memorial to the Secretary of Energy of the United States, the President of
11 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and
12 the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress
13 of the United States.