

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

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3 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho:

4 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives deems it necessary and desirable  
5 to protect and preserve the water, air and land, as well as the aesthetic  
6 quality of the natural resources of the State of Idaho, for current and fu-  
7 ture generations; and

8 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the need for and im-  
9 portance of industry and jobs for all communities, but also finds that the  
10 costs of meeting these needs must be understood and that a line achieving an  
11 acceptable balance should be drawn; and

12 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that its role in exercising  
13 authority through the legislative process to protect its citizens from real  
14 or potential threats to their livelihoods, families, real estate and health  
15 is of critical importance to the citizens of Idaho; and

16 WHEREAS, the Canadian company HiTest Silicon has proposed siting a sil-  
17 icon smelter project in Pend Oreille County, Washington, which borders Bon-  
18 ner County, Idaho, and has the potential to impact the quality of life in the  
19 Idaho communities of Oldtown, Priest River, Blanchard, Vay, Laclede, Dover  
20 and Sandpoint; and

21 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that the still unknown ef-  
22 fects of the proposed smelting operation and the effects of its potential  
23 hazardous waste on the surface and ground waters, air quality, wildlife,  
24 ecosystem, timber values and property values; the medical and health impli-  
25 cations; the impact on Idaho's transportation systems of the shipping of raw  
26 and finished products; and the impact to the rural lifestyle requires thor-  
27 ough study and proper vetting prior to the approval of any public funding or  
28 the award of any state agency permits; and

29 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives should, in future legislative  
30 sessions, provide the necessary levels of scrutiny, debate and expertise  
31 to address current and future citizen concerns, in the event the proposed  
32 smelter project moves forward to completion; and

33 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes past abuses and sig-  
34 nificant problems with previous smelter operations in Idaho, particularly  
35 in the Kellogg and Silver Valley areas, and finds that the State of Idaho  
36 should learn from past mistakes and not allow a repeat of tragic impacts to  
37 the citizens, communities and ecosystem, by listening to testimony related  
38 to the best available science, methodologies and expertise on avoiding nega-  
39 tive impacts on the area; and

40 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives urges the State of Idaho, includ-  
41 ing the legislative branch, the judicial branch and the executive branch and  
42 state agencies, to use all available resources to ensure that the precious  
43 water and watersheds of Bonner County are not marginalized, contaminated,

1 disrupted or impacted by any actions from those within or without the State  
2 of Idaho.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Represen-  
4 tatives, assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho  
5 Legislature, that all branches and agencies of the State of Idaho should work  
6 in unison toward the common goal of protecting and defending two of Idaho's  
7 great natural resources: the Lake Pend Oreille and Priest Lake watershed ar-  
8 eas.