House Joint Resolution 16

Sponsored by Representative COWAN, Senator KRUSE; Representatives BOONE, KRIEGER, ROBLAN, WITT, Senators JOHNSON, VERGER, WHITSETT (at the request of Oregon Coastal Caucus)

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**.

Recognizes responsibility of Oregon in providing leadership in nation's stewardship of oceans and that loss of Research Vessel Wecoma without replacement is net economic loss to Oregon. Resolves to support operation of new Oceans Class Research Vessel to be obtained through competitive proposal to United States Navy.

JOINT RESOLUTION 1 2 Whereas the State of Oregon is one of five Pacific Ocean coastal states; and 3 Whereas the State of Oregon is committed to ensuring the long-term health of its coastal ocean 4 and the fisheries therein, through the 2006 West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health; and Whereas the State of Oregon is a global leader for ocean research and employs one of the 5 6 world's foremost communities of ocean scientists at Oregon State University, University of Oregon, 7 Portland State University, Oregon Health and Science University and other academic institutions 8 and state agencies; and Whereas Oregon State University operates the scientific Research Vessel Wecoma through the 9 10 University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System, has operated research vessels continuously since 1958 and has a world-class research docking facility in the City of Newport; and 11 12 Whereas the Research Vessel Wecoma has been witness to ground-breaking ocean research, in-13 cluding the discovery of hydrothermal vents and methane hydrates, the identification of coastal hypoxia and understanding coastal upwelling and its impact on coastal ecosystems; and 14 Whereas the Research Vessel Wecoma is 34 years old and will be decommissioned in the next 15 five years, whether it is replaced or not; and 16 Whereas the only means of procuring a replacement vessel is by response to a United States 17Navy Request for Proposals in 2009 to operate a new Oceans Class Research Vessel; and 18 Whereas that United States Navy Request for Proposals will specify the requirement for dem-19 20 onstrated state support; and 21Whereas all other coastal states provide support for scientific research vessels in the form of state-funded ship days used for the purposes of education, development of new research ideas and 22 23fostering partnerships between universities, industry and government agencies; and 24 Whereas there will be fewer research vessels in the University-National Oceanographic Labo-25ratory System fleet and hence the competition for those fewer replacement vessels will be extreme; 26 and 27Whereas the federally funded operating budget of the Research Vessel Wecoma is presently \$3.5 28 million per annum with an economic multiplier of eight, primarily spent in the State of Oregon, 29 supporting economic activity of at least \$12 million; and

30 Whereas the operating budget of the new Oceans Class Research Vessel is anticipated to be \$5

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1 million beginning in 2014, with a proportionately higher return on investment to the state; and

2 Whereas the State of Oregon will realize a taxable return of zero without a replacement vessel, 3 and will suffer economically from the loss of jobs and industry associated with the operation, main-4 tenance and upkeep of a research vessel, including the loss of seagoing oceanographers from the

5 state; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, recognize the responsibility of the role of the coastal State of Oregon in providing leadership in this nation's stewardship of the oceans and that the loss of Research Vessel Wecoma without a replacement is a net economic loss to Oregon, and therefore resolve to support the operation of a new Oceans Class Research Vessel, to be obtained through competitive proposal to the United States Navy, in the amount of \$500,000 per annum beginning in 2014 or at the time the new Oceans Class Research Vessel becomes operational.

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