

Oregonite & Josephinite as the Official Twin Minerals of the State of Oregon

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1. In 1965 California became the first state to have an official rock, mineral or gem stone.
2. In that same year the Oregon Legislature passed a measure making the thunderegg our official state rock.
3. Since that time, 22 states now have an official mineral.
4. No other state holds the honor or privilege of having an official mineral named after itself or a location within the state.
5. For that matter, no other state has a twin mineral.
6. Oregonite and Josephinite, so closely tied chemically to rocks from space, bravely represents our voyage into the 21st Century and into the exploration of frontiers beyond Earth.
7. Oregonite and Josephinite, within the United States, are found only in Oregon, further making them unique among official state minerals, as no other state in the Union can make that claim.
8. Always at the forefront, in the pioneer spirit of our people and of this place, Oregon will have the honor of being the first state with its own namesake minerals and twins at that. I would like to think that this reflects our ability to do everything twice as well as other states.
9. The gesture of making Oregonite and Josephinite is not a hollow one either. This bill also represents Oregon's interest in promoting education through the earth sciences. Any pursuit of the Oregon Legislature, which encourages curiosity, study, and the passionate pursuit of learning more about where we live can only be beneficial for current and subsequent generations of Oregonians.