

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Declares legislative support for pump storage energy projects.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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Whereas Oregon has recognized the threat of climate change for many years and has developed policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create living wage jobs and economic opportunities in Oregon; and

Whereas in 2007 the Legislative Assembly established goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

Whereas in 2016 the Legislative Assembly passed legislation requiring Oregon electric utilities to phase out the use of coal-generated electricity to serve Oregon customers by 2035 and requiring large electric utilities to generate at least 50 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2040; and

Whereas the ability to integrate greater amounts of renewable energy into the Oregon electricity grid has been facilitated by the Northwest Hydro System, but that system is beginning to reach its limits in playing such an integrative and balancing role; and

Whereas in moving to a clean energy economy, there will be the need for increasing amounts of energy storage to integrate renewable energy into the Oregon electricity grid; and

Whereas virtually all of the existing utility-scale energy storage in the United States is in the form of pump storage; and

Whereas pump storage is the only proven, cost-effective method of energy

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 storage at scale, and consists of pumping or generating by moving energy in
2 the form of water through a powerhouse between an upper and a lower res-
3 ervoir; and

4 Whereas closed-loop pump storage projects recycle water in an efficient
5 way and when properly sited have few or no adverse environmental impacts;
6 and

7 Whereas an individual pump storage project creates thousands of con-
8 struction jobs over a three- to five-year period in rural communities and
9 dozens of permanent jobs; and

10 Whereas Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have several possible pump
11 storage development opportunities, including the Swan Lake project in
12 Klamath County and the Goldendale project in the Columbia River Gorge;
13 and

14 Whereas the Swan Lake project is projected to secure its Federal Energy
15 Regulatory Commission license in 2019, and construction could start as early
16 as 2020; and

17 Whereas the Swan Lake and Goldendale projects have the support of or-
18 ganized labor, including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
19 and the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, environ-
20 ment and climate advocates, local governments, including the Sherman,
21 Gilliam, Morrow and Klamath County Commissions, the Governor of Oregon
22 and every member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation; now, therefore,

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

24 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, support the
25 development of environmentally appropriate closed-loop pump storage
26 projects, and we encourage Oregon regulators to support pump storage and
27 Oregon utilities to utilize pump storage in their energy resource mixes to
28 meet their capacity needs in the coming years.

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