

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 1

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources)

## 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**.

Declares legislative support for pump storage energy projects.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Oregon has recognized the threat of climate change for many years and has developed  
3 policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create living wage jobs and economic opportunities  
4 in Oregon; and

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

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

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

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

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

18       Whereas pump storage is the only proven, cost-effective method of energy storage at scale, and  
19 consists of pumping or generating by moving energy in the form of water through a powerhouse  
20 between an upper and a lower reservoir; and

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

23       Whereas an individual pump storage project creates thousands of construction jobs over a three-  
24 to five-year period in rural communities and dozens of permanent jobs; and

25       Whereas Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have several possible pump storage development  
26 opportunities, including the Swan Lake project in Klamath County and the Goldendale project in the  
27 Columbia River Gorge; and

28       Whereas the Swan Lake project is projected to secure its Federal Energy Regulatory Commis-  
29 sion license in 2019, and construction could start as early as 2020; and

30       Whereas the Swan Lake and Goldendale projects have the support of organized labor, including  
31 the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Oregon State Building and Con-

**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 construction Trades Council, environment and climate advocates, local governments, including the  
2 Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Klamath County Commissions, the Governor of Oregon and every  
3 member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation; now, therefore,

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

5 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, support the development of envi-  
6 ronmentally appropriate closed-loop pump storage projects, and we encourage Oregon regulators to  
7 support pump storage and Oregon utilities to utilize pump storage in their energy resource mixes  
8 to meet their capacity needs in the coming years.

9

---