

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4—
SENATOR SPEARMAN

MARCH 20, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Directs the Legislative Commission to create an interim study concerning the development of renewable energy resources in this State. (BDR R-1130)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to create a committee to conduct an interim study concerning the development of renewable energy resources in this State.

1 WHEREAS, A renewable energy resources program administered
2 by appropriate state and local agencies in this State has the potential
3 to unleash the vast renewable energy resources in this State and put
4 Nevada at the forefront of renewable energy development; and

5 WHEREAS, The foundation of such a program is rooted in
6 Nevada's expansive and, to date, largely untapped potential for
7 renewable energy resources, including Nevada's yet-to-be-
8 developed geothermal resources, which are more substantial than in
9 any other state, and Nevada's large deposits of lithium, which are
10 currently the only deposits producing lithium for use in the United
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, Geothermal energy has the smallest carbon footprint
13 of any form of renewable energy and can be used across a wide
14 spectrum of temperatures, including lower temperatures capable of
15 providing heat for public facilities, homes, greenhouse agriculture
16 and vegetable dehydration and higher temperatures that can produce
17 electricity; and

18 WHEREAS, Lithium is critical to the burgeoning electrical
19 automobile industry and for battery technology in general, with a
20 wide array of applications for all forms of renewable energy; and



WHEREAS, Systematic studies are needed to locate these renewable energy resources, to analyze the feasibility for developing such resources, to determine the best methods for extraction of such resources and to determine if initial support is needed to assist entrepreneurial industries to develop such resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to appoint, as soon as practicable after July 1, 2017, a committee to conduct an interim study, as described herein, which is composed of:

1. Three members of the Senate, two of whom are appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

2. Three members of the Assembly, two of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall designate one of the members appointed to the committee to serve as the Chair of the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee shall conduct an interim study of the feasibility of converting existing mines into geothermal resources and of using the lithium resources in this State for purposes of energy, which must include, without limitation, consideration of:

1. The potential for using geothermal energy in universities, governmental offices, prisons and other major public facilities in Nevada;

2. The potential for developing geothermal resources for individual mines and mining districts;

3. Ways to support the selection of Fallon, Nevada, as the sight for the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) laboratory to be funded by the United States Department of Energy to test technologies for developing engineered geothermal systems involving the mining of heat from rocks for energy;

4. Methods for the acquisition of light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data, which is high resolution topographic data that may provide critical information on the distribution of faults and rock layers that host renewable energy resources;

5. Methods for the acquisition of new, detailed geologic and energy resource potential maps, including three-dimensional maps, to help identify areas with the greatest potential for development of geothermal and lithium resources;

6. The development of infrastructure and support for staff, including, without limitation, laboratories, geoscientists, digital



1 curators, web specialists, engineers and economists at state agencies
2 to facilitate implementation of a renewable energy resources
3 program in this State; and

4 7. Any other matter that the committee determines is relevant
5 to the study; and be it further;

6 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
7 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
8 Assembly and a majority of the members of the Senate appointed to
9 the committee; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a
11 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for
12 legislation to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

