

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4—  
SENATOR SPEARMAN

MARCH 20, 2017

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

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

~

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Committee on Energy 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



\* S C R 4 R 1 \*

1 WHEREAS, Systematic studies are needed to locate these  
2 renewable energy resources, to analyze the feasibility for  
3 developing such resources, to determine the best methods for  
4 extraction of such resources and to determine if initial support is  
5 needed to assist entrepreneurial industries to develop such  
6 resources; and

7 WHEREAS, The implementation of cost effective energy  
8 efficiency measures by state agencies in this State has the potential  
9 to save energy costs for the State of Nevada and protect and  
10 improve the environment in this State; and

11 WHEREAS, The conduct of a statewide audit to identify energy  
12 cost-effective energy efficiency measures for implementation by  
13 state agencies will enable the State of Nevada to realize the cost  
14 savings and environmental benefits of energy efficiency measures;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
17 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on  
18 Energy shall conduct an interim study of the development  
19 of the renewable energy resources available in this State; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the study include consideration of methods to  
22 increase the opportunities for students in this State to study subjects  
23 related to renewable energy at community colleges and universities  
24 in this State; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That, as part of the study, the Legislative Committee  
26 on Energy may, if feasible, enter into a contract or other agreement  
27 with the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada,  
28 Las Vegas for the gathering of data concerning the total cost of  
29 various sources of supply of energy, including, without limitation,  
30 natural gas plants, geothermal facilities and solar resources, from  
31 obtaining the energy to the delivery of the energy to the end-user of  
32 the energy; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the study include the feasibility of converting  
34 existing mines into geothermal resources and of using the lithium  
35 resources in this State for purposes of energy, which must include,  
36 without limitation, consideration of:

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

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

42 3. Ways to support the selection of Fallon, Nevada, as the sight  
43 for the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy  
44 (FORGE) laboratory to be funded by the United States Department



\* S C R 4 R 1 \*

1 of Energy to test technologies for developing engineered geothermal  
2 systems involving the mining of heat from rocks for energy;

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

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

11 6. The development of infrastructure and support for staff,  
12 including, without limitation, laboratories, geoscientists, digital  
13 curators, web specialists, engineers and economists at state agencies  
14 to facilitate implementation of a renewable energy resources  
15 program in this State; and

16 7. Any other matter that the Committee determines is relevant  
17 to the study; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That, in conducting the study, the Legislative  
19 Committee on Energy shall partner or consult with representatives  
20 of the Nevada System of Higher Education, the elementary  
21 and secondary education system in this State, the National  
22 Renewable Energy Laboratory and the private sector; and be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Energy shall, if  
25 feasible, contract with the University of Nevada, Reno and the  
26 University of Nevada, Las Vegas to conduct a statewide audit to  
27 identify energy efficiency measures that could be implemented by  
28 agencies of the State of Nevada, determine the costs and benefits of  
29 those measures, determine the savings that could be realized by the  
30 State of Nevada if those agencies implemented the energy efficiency  
31 measures identified in the audit and make recommendations for the  
32 implementation of energy efficiency measures by those agencies;  
33 and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Energy shall  
35 submit a report concerning the statewide audit to the Legislature and  
36 the Governor and provide a copy of the recommendations of the  
37 statewide audit to each agency of the State of Nevada; and be it  
38 further

39 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the  
40 Legislative Committee on Energy must be approved by  
41 a majority of the members of the Assembly and a majority  
42 of the members of the Senate appointed to the Committee; and be it  
43 further



\* S C R 4 R 1 \*

1       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Energy shall  
2 submit a report of the results of the study, including, without  
3 limitation, a report of any data collected and presented to the  
4 Committee concerning the cost of various sources of supply of  
5 energy, and any recommendations for legislation to the 80th Session  
6 of the Nevada Legislature.

③⑩

