

ORIGINAL HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION
NO. HJ0007

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2015 GENERAL SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service expressing support for the timely and scheduled completion of Rare Element Resources' Bear Lodge Critical Rare Earth Project environmental impact statement.

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources proposed a small, high-grade open pit rare earth minerals mine on lands managed by the United States Forest Service in Crook County, Wyoming, that, because of the land's high grade, critical rare earth content and Rare Element Resources' technological achievements in processing is being recognized as America's most advanced future domestic source of a secure supply of rare earth critical minerals; and

WHEREAS, the United States was once largely self-sufficient in rare earth element production but today relies on imported rare earth critical minerals; and

WHEREAS, at least twenty-seven (27) federal reports and studies in recent years have described the increasingly dangerous state of American reliance on imports of critical minerals, including rare earth minerals that will be processed from the Bear Lodge Project; and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources has identified a world class project with strong project economics and at least a forty-five (45) year project life; and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources has established significant value in those rare earth minerals that are deemed by the United States Department of Energy to be in highest demand and most susceptible to supply disruption; and

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WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources has developed a proprietary rare earths recovery process on which four (4) patents have been filed; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has invited Rare Element Resources to join the Department's Critical Materials Institute, which develops solutions to the domestic shortages of rare earth minerals and other critical minerals essential to America's energy and national security and finds innovative technology solutions to help America avoid a supply shortage that would threaten its clean energy industry and security interests; and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources is one of only seven (7) private sector American companies chosen to join the Department of Energy's Critical Materials Institute, which is composed of America's leading researchers in science from academia and four (4) Department of Energy national laboratories; and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources' scheduled startup of the Bear Lodge Project depends on the timely completion of an environmental impact statement by the United States Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Lodge Project was originally scheduled to begin commissioning in the fourth quarter of 2016, but has been delayed by the United States Forest Service in preparing the draft environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Lodge Project has been identified as a project of national significance by the United States Department of Energy and meeting the project's scheduled startup depends on the timely completion of the

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environmental impact statement by the United States Forest Service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service to understand the strategic national importance of the unique mineral resources to be produced from the Bear Lodge Project and the importance of establishing Rare Element Resources as the top domestic rare earth minerals producer and one of the top producers in the world by 2016.

Section 2. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service to work to establish deadlines for finalizing reasonable input to the Bear Lodge Project environmental impact statement process.

Section 3. That the legislature of the state of Wyoming encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service to promptly identify and implement the proper steps to accelerate and streamline the environmental impact statement of the Bear Lodge Project to meet the schedule originally set in 2014 by the United States Forest Service for a final environmental impact statement and record of decision in the fourth quarter of 2015, thus allowing Rare Element Resources to begin commissioning in 2016.

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Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the Chief of the United States Forest Service and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

(END)

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Governor

TIME APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

I hereby certify that this act originated in the House.

Chief Clerk