

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0007

Bear lodge project.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Burkhardt and Kasperik and
Senator(s) Anderson, J.D. (SD02) and
Driskill

A Bill

for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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17 WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources' scheduled startup of the
18 Bear Lodge Project depends on the timely completion of an
19 environmental impact statement by the United States Forest
20 Service with participation from federal and state
21 cooperating agencies, including the Wyoming department of
22 environmental quality; and

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

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7 WHEREAS, the Bear Lodge Project has been identified as a
8 project of national significance by the United States
9 Department of Energy and meeting the project's scheduled
10 startup depends on the timely completion of the
11 environmental impact statement by the United States Forest
12 Service.

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

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17 **Section 1.** That the legislature of the state of
18 Wyoming encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the
19 Chief of the United States Forest Service to understand the
20 strategic national importance of the unique mineral
21 resources to be produced from the Bear Lodge Project and
22 the importance of establishing Rare Element Resources as

1 the top domestic rare earth minerals producer and one of
2 the top producers in the world by 2016.

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4 **Section 2.** That the legislature of the state of
5 Wyoming encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and the
6 Chief of the United States Forest Service to work with the
7 various cooperating agencies to establish deadlines for
8 finalizing the agencies' reasonable input to the Bear Lodge
9 Project environmental impact statement process.

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

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

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(END)