

House Concurrent Resolution 9

Sponsored by Representatives HELM, RESCHKE, Senator ROBLAN, Representative SMITH G, Senator DEMBROW; Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Supports development of closed-loop pump storage projects. Encourages Oregon utilities to use closed-loop pump storage.

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 this state; and

5 Whereas in 2007 the Legislative Assembly adopted goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
6 to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and to at least 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 by 2030, and requiring large electric utilities to
9 generate at least 50 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2040; and

10 Whereas the Northwest Hydro System has facilitated integration of renewable energy into the
11 Oregon electricity grid but is reaching its limits in that role; and

12 Whereas moving to a clean energy economy will increase the need for energy storage; and

13 Whereas nearly all existing utility-scale energy storage in the United States is in the form of
14 closed-loop pump storage; and

15 Whereas closed-loop pump storage is the only proven, cost-effective energy storage at scale, and
16 closed-loop pump storage consists of pumping or generating electricity by moving water through a
17 powerhouse between an upper and a lower reservoir; and

18 Whereas Oregon and the Pacific Northwest have several possible closed-loop pump storage de-
19 velopment opportunities, including the Swan Lake project in Klamath County and the Goldendale
20 project in the Columbia River Gorge; and

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

23 Whereas a closed-loop pump storage project creates thousands of construction jobs in rural
24 communities over a three- to five-year cycle, and dozens of permanent jobs over several decades; and

25 Whereas the Swan Lake project is expected to secure its license from the Federal Energy Reg-
26 ulatory Commission in 2019, and construction on the project could start as early as 2020; and

27 Whereas the Swan Lake and Goldendale projects have the support of labor, environment and
28 climate advocates, and local governments including the Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Klamath
29 County Commissions; and

30 Whereas the Governor and all members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation have written
31 letters of support for the Swan Lake and Goldendale projects; now, therefore,

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

2 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, support the development of envi-
3 ronmentally appropriate, closed-loop pump storage projects; and be it further

4 Resolved, That we encourage Oregon utilities to use closed-loop pump storage in their resource
5 mixes to meet their capacity needs over the coming years.

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