

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32061 / HJM005

This House Joint Memorial is a formal request to Idaho's Congressional delegation, the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the President of the United States to act in response to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's approval of the LS Energy wind turbine project known as Lava Ridge.

As noted in the Statement of Purpose for a pending House Concurrent Resolution, the 67th Idaho Legislature unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 004, opposing LS Energy's application to lease extensive acreage in Jerome, Minidoka, and Lincoln Counties. Despite overwhelming opposition to the Lava Ridge Project, the proposal has been approved at a reduced—yet still substantial—acreage, posing significant impacts on the Magic Valley.

We were pleased to see on January 20, 2025, President Trump signing an executive order which specifically identified the Lava Ridge project and ordered the Department of Interior to place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of the developer under the Record of Decision issued by the Bureau of Land Management on December 5, 2024. On January 22, 2025, Governor Brad Little issued a similar Executive Order, 2025-01, asking all Idaho State Agencies to fully cooperate with the efforts to put an end to the Lava Ridge Proposal. However, citizens remain deeply concerned that the massive construction demands, disruptions to wildlife, and infrastructure requirements far outweigh any short-term financial benefits. Additionally, the long-term benefits of the power generated will primarily serve Nevada and California, leaving Idaho to bear the negative environmental impacts, including risks to the Snake River Aquifer.

This memorial directed to Congress and the President recognizes the importance of the President's and Governor's Executive actions. We need to have continued legislative and executive authority to block this project and prevent it from becoming a lasting blight on the citizens of Idaho, particularly those in the Magic Valley.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation presents no fiscal impact on the Idaho State General Fund nor any other governmental entity.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).