

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INSTRUCTING THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF WIND FARMS IN IDAHO AND THE OWNERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES OF QUALIFYING FACILITIES.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho has, in the past few years, experienced significant growth in the number of wind and other renewable energy projects built or under development in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, there are economic, social and environmental impacts of wind energy development on the State of Idaho and its citizens that need further exploration by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, renewable qualifying facilities under the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 have certain environmental attributes that have a monetary value to the owner thereof, related to the green tags, clean energy credits, renewable energy credits or renewable energy certificates, and the avoidance of emissions of pollutants from carbon-based forms of energy production; and

WHEREAS, there are important policy issues for the State of Idaho involved in the question of whether the environmental attributes of power produced by a renewable qualifying facility should be transferred to a public utility, without consideration, when the utility purchases the qualifying facility power at avoided cost, or whether environmental attributes should remain separately owned and transferable by the qualifying facility; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council Interim Committee on Energy, Environment and Technology has the technical expertise and experience to investigate, determine and report to the 2013 Idaho Legislature on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the wind industry on the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council Interim Committee on Energy, Environment and Technology has the technical expertise and experience to investigate, determine and report to the 2013 Idaho Legislature on the question of whether power sold by a renewable qualifying facility to a utility at avoided cost should also transfer to a public utility, without consideration, the environmental attributes of that qualifying facility, or whether such environmental attributes should be retained by the qualifying facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council Interim Committee on Energy, Environment and Technology shall investigate the economic, social and environmental impacts of wind energy development on the State of Idaho and its citizens, and report back to the 2013 Legislature its findings.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council Interim Committee
2 on Energy, Environment and Technology shall investigate whether power sold
3 by a renewable qualifying facility to a utility at avoided cost should also
4 transfer to a public utility, without consideration, the environmental
5 attributes of that qualifying facility, or whether such environmental at-
6 tributes should be retained by the qualifying facility.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Council Interim Commit-
8 tee on Energy, Environment and Technology shall seek the assistance of the
9 Idaho Office of Energy Resources, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, the
10 Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council and members of the public,
11 in general, in conducting its investigation of the economic, social and
12 environmental impacts of the wind industry, in determining the appropriate
13 ownership of environmental attributes, and in preparing its report thereon.