



SENATE RESOLUTION 01-019

BY SENATOR(S) Perlmutter, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer (Arapahoe), Entz, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, McElhany, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Phillips, Reeves, Takis, Tate, Teck, Thiebaut, Tupa, and Windels.

CONCERNING THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY.

WHEREAS, The National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, is the world's leading laboratory in the research, development, and demonstration of clean and inexhaustible renewable energy technologies using sun, wind, water, biomass, and the earth's own heat, as well as advanced energy efficiency technologies; and

WHEREAS, The talented scientists and researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory have made tremendous progress in advancing clean, low-carbon energy technologies to the point where many of them are becoming cost-competitive with conventional energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, Many innovative technologies researched and developed at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory are now being applied successfully in our nation's energy, electricity, and transportation sectors, with ongoing research proceeding in other such important clean-energy technology applications; and

WHEREAS, Secure and uninterrupted energy supplies are crucial to our national security, economic health, and world leadership; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy generation facilities offer Colorado's rural and agricultural areas significant and sustainable new economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations are taking place to build a 162-megawatt wind farm near Lamar, Colorado, which would be the largest such facility in the entire Rocky Mountain region; and

WHEREAS, Colorado currently has one of the country's most successful voluntary "green pricing" programs, with the state's various investor-owned, municipal, and rural electric utilities offering over 25 megawatts of wind power to more than 20,000 consumers and businesses statewide; and

WHEREAS, The Electric Power Research Institute has reported that "electricity-based innovation is central to productivity growth", thus providing an important competitive advantage to Colorado, which has one of the largest business, industry, and intellectual resource bases in the world in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies; and

WHEREAS, Recent events in California demonstrate the vital importance of ensuring a diverse and sufficient portfolio of electricity generation and transmission assets, particularly in a rapidly growing state such as Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Proposed cuts in the U.S. Department of Energy's fiscal year 2002 funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs could seriously harm the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, causing job losses for one-third to one-half of the laboratory's staff and hindering the development of secure, new energy sources for the United States; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

(1) That the Colorado Senate salutes the many contributions of the more than 1,000 researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and other laboratories throughout the state to the research, development, and demonstration of innovative new sources of energy.

(2) That the Colorado Senate recognizes the importance of the state's businesses and industries involved in innovative new low-carbon energy technologies that promise to make Colorado an internationally competitive leader in this high-growth industry of the future.

(3) That the Colorado Senate urges the state government to recognize the full potential offered by renewable energy technologies for Colorado's future energy and electricity needs.

(4) That the Colorado Senate urges the United States Congress to provide full funding for all renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in fiscal year 2002 so that important research, development, and demonstration of these critically important energy technologies of the future can be continued without costly disruption.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to President George W. Bush, the members of the Colorado Congressional delegation, and to Spencer Abraham, the United States Secretary of Energy.

Stan Matsunaka
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE