



June 3, 2016

Subject: Letter of Support for Proposal of Newberry Volcano Geothermal Area for the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bend Chamber supported the activities of the Phase 1 stage and, now again, continues to support the activities for Phase 2 and 3 of the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) on the Newberry Volcano in Central Oregon.

The Bend Chamber continues to believe the prospect of having a commercial scale electric power production facility using geothermal technology would be a boon for our local economy. Not only in the development and construction of the operation, but also in the high paying jobs it will bring to the region.

The FORGE Project brings the possibilities of partnerships throughout our region including OSU Cascades, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, as well as other research facilities and universities within the state.

Central Oregon is fast becoming a hotbed of activity in high technology including but not limited to software, electronics, pharmaceutical, and aerospace. With over 600 manufacturers and high tech companies in the area, the FORGE project is located in the perfect place.

Above all, the Bend Chamber still believes the FORGE project is important not only for the development of alternative energy in our region, but of the economic impact to Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jamie Christman
Government Affairs Director