

May 19, 2016

**Subject: Letter of Support for Phase II and III Proposal of Newberry Geothermal Area for the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE)**

To Whom It May Concern:

The La Pine Economic Development Advisory Board is providing this letter of support for Phase II and III of the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) located in Central Oregon on the Newberry Volcano area. We support the Newberry Geothermal Energy team of AltaRock Energy Inc., Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Oregon State University, GE Global Research and Statoil.

As demonstrated in Phase I, the NEWGEN FORGE site brings over 40 years of existing background data from exploration and research, and the area meets FORCE standards for temperature and permeability at depth. The geothermal gradient exceeds 85° C/km, measured data at depth, multiple existing wells are in place, unitized lease ownership is secured, and road access and water supply are all available. Phase I of the FORGE program has indicated strong environmental, safety and health plans are in place, including seismic mitigation plans.

Renewable energy plans are supported locally, and on a state and federal basis. The opportunity to move to Phase II, and potentially to Phase III would bring great recognition and economic benefit to South Deschutes County. The program could be a catalyst for providing cutting edge research in the area, as well as providing high paying jobs in the area, and developing a renewable energy and technology program that would be a model for other parts of the U.S. The economic impact of Phase II could result in over \$10 million per year being spent in the local economy, including new jobs, lodging, and other ancillary services.

We are proud of the research and efforts that Phase I of NEWGEN FORGE project has already produced and strongly support their application for Phase II. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely



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Janet Burton  
Area Economic Development Manager