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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37—COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND LABOR

MAY 9, 2003

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Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim  
study of geexchange technology. (BDR R-1287)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the  
Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of  
geexchange technology.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has adopted an energy policy in  
2 chapter 701 of NRS that acknowledges, among other findings, that  
3 energy is essential to the economy of this state and to the health,  
4 safety and welfare of the residents of Nevada; and  
5 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has a responsibility to  
6 encourage the maintenance of a reliable and economical supply of  
7 energy at a level that is consistent with the protection of  
8 environmental quality, and a responsibility to encourage the  
9 utilization of a wide range of measures that reduce the wasteful use  
10 of energy resources; and  
11 WHEREAS, Chapter 704 of NRS includes the adoption of one of  
12 the most aggressive renewable energy portfolio standards in the  
13 nation; and  
14 WHEREAS, Nevada has one of the fastest growing populations in  
15 the nation and a corresponding increase in public school enrollment  
16 that expands at the rate of approximately 11,000 pupils a year in  
17 Clark County alone; and  
18 WHEREAS, In recent years, Nevada has built, or is in the process  
19 of building, over 100 new schools to accommodate the needs of  
20 pupils; and  
21 WHEREAS, A significant portion of the operational budget for  
22 schools and other public buildings is allocated to energy needs,  
23 including, without limitation, heating and cooling systems; and



1 WHEREAS, Nevada is facing a budget crisis that makes it  
2 imperative that governmental operations of all types find ways to  
3 conserve money; and

4 WHEREAS, Any money saved on the heating and cooling of  
5 public buildings can be used for other purposes, such as textbooks  
6 and computers for pupils, new buildings and other facilities, salaries  
7 of teachers and public employees, and funding programs for the  
8 public health, welfare and safety of the residents of Nevada; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada has a vital interest in reducing  
10 the amount of fossil fuel consumed to produce energy for all  
11 purposes, including heating and cooling, in order to protect the  
12 environment and the quality of life in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, Nevada must import virtually all the fuel it uses for  
14 energy production, and every dollar so spent is a dollar that leaves  
15 this state's economy and benefits the economies of other states or  
16 countries instead of our own; and

17 WHEREAS, Geoexchange heating and cooling systems are  
18 proven technologies that save 20 to 40 percent on heating and  
19 cooling costs and have been in use for many years in other states,  
20 particularly in schools and other public buildings as well as in  
21 private industry and for private residences; and

22 WHEREAS, Geoexchange technology efficiently utilizes the heat  
23 of the sun absorbed by the earth and therefore greatly reduces the  
24 need to purchase or burn fossil fuel for heating and cooling  
25 purposes, thus protecting the environment and reducing the amount  
26 of money leaving the State; and

27 WHEREAS, With the use of geoexchange technology, new jobs  
28 would be created in this state, expensive peak power purchases and  
29 demands on our already overburdened transmission system would  
30 be reduced and, at the same time, security would be enhanced  
31 because of the distributed nature of its deployment; now, therefore,  
32 be it

33 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
34 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is  
35 hereby directed to appoint an interim committee to conduct a study  
36 of the feasibility and desirability of using geoexchange technology  
37 in public facilities, including, without limitation, schools, prisons  
38 and other public buildings in this state as well as in the private  
39 sector; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

41 1. An examination of suitable applications of geoexchange  
42 technology in Nevada's public buildings and facilities, both in new  
43 construction and in retrofitting projects, as well as in the private  
44 sector;



- 1 2. Consideration of potential demonstration projects and  
2 funding sources for such projects;
- 3 3. Integration of geexchange technology with other forms of  
4 renewable energy, including, without limitation, solar, wind,  
5 geothermal and biomass energy;
- 6 4. The potential for securing renewable energy trading credits  
7 and other incentives for the installation of geexchange technology;  
8 and
- 9 5. Financing options, including, without limitation, programs  
10 through existing utilities and other businesses utilizing shared  
11 savings programs; and be it further  
12 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the  
13 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the  
14 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to  
15 the committee; and be it further  
16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a  
17 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for  
18 legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

