

SB 5149 - DIGEST

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Finds that: (1) The Pacific Northwest has unique geological features that include significant geothermal resources;

(2) Other states and provinces in this region are actively exploring and developing these resources for energy production purposes;

(3) Existing data and analyses of these resources is now largely outdated; and

(4) Advances in technology, increased energy prices, and increased interest in low-carbon energy sources has increased interest by electric utilities and independent power producers in the state's geothermal resources.

Declares an intent to authorize a comprehensive review of the state's geothermal resources and make recommendations regarding policy measures to facilitate environmentally responsible development of these resources for electric generation and concentrated heating purposes.

Creates the geothermal resource assessment committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the geothermal resources in the state and their potential for environmentally responsible development for power production purposes.