
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8407

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Owen and Erwin

Read first time 04/07/93. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Committee of the Senate and the
2 Natural Resources and Parks Committee of the House of Representatives
3 have conducted hearings on legislation pertaining to open pit metallic
4 ore mining during the 1993 session; and

5 WHEREAS, Testimony received at the hearings suggests that a
6 comprehensive evaluation of existing and potential metallic ore mining
7 operations within the state should be undertaken; and

8 WHEREAS, Recent experiences in several other western states have
9 shown that underregulated chemical leach mining operations can result
10 in large-scale environmental and financial problems, including the
11 permanent contamination of ground water and surface water and toxic
12 waste cleanup liability; and

13 WHEREAS, The two committees, having a strong interest in the
14 subject matter, are appropriate entities for obtaining pertinent
15 information from the public at large and from technical experts;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of
17 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Natural
18 Resources Committee of the Senate and the Natural Resources and Parks
19 Committee of the House of Representatives are asked to: (1) Conduct
20 hearings on (a) the open pit metallic ore mining process, (b) the
21 chemical leach ore extraction process, (c) the open pit metallic ore

1 mining now under way or proposed within the state, (d) the federal and
2 state statutes and regulations and local government authority presently
3 applicable to such open pit mining and chemical leach process, and (e)
4 other types of metals mining and (2) prepare proposed legislation, if
5 deemed appropriate, to be submitted to the 1994 legislature; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chairs of the two committees may
7 appoint an advisory group to assist in gathering information and
8 providing data for the committees. The advisory group should include
9 representation from the Office of the Governor, the Office of the
10 Commissioner of Public Lands, the state geologist from the Department
11 of Natural Resources, the Department of Ecology, local governments, the
12 environmental community, and the mining industry; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate committee shall be staffed
14 by Senate Committee Services and the House committee shall be staffed
15 by the Office of Program Research.

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