
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4016

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Barnard, Klicker, Ybarra, Walsh, Dye, Stuebe, Connors, Keaton, Rude, and Schmidt

Read first time 02/14/26. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BOB FERGUSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF
2 WASHINGTON:

3 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
4 the state of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
5 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

6 WHEREAS, The United States department of energy has issued a
7 request for information inviting states to express interest in
8 hosting nuclear lifecycle innovation campuses, a proposed new
9 federal-state initiative that could modernize the nation's full
10 nuclear fuel cycle and strengthen America's leadership in advanced
11 nuclear energy; and

12 WHEREAS, As described in the department of energy's announcement,
13 these proposed campuses could support activities across the full
14 nuclear fuel lifecycle, including fuel fabrication, enrichment,
15 reprocessing of used nuclear fuel, and disposition of waste, and
16 could also encompass advanced reactor deployment, power generation,
17 advanced manufacturing, and colocated data centers depending on state
18 and regional priorities; and

19 WHEREAS, The establishment of innovation campuses is intended to
20 support regional economic growth, attract private investment,
21 encourage workforce development, catalyze technology leadership, and
22 help build a coherent, end-to-end energy strategy to meet future
23 power demands; and

1 WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is a nonemitting, reliable, and resilient
2 source of baseload power that can contribute to energy security, grid
3 stability, and the reduction of carbon emissions while supporting
4 high-wage jobs in manufacturing, engineering, research, and
5 operations; and

6 WHEREAS, Participation in the department of energy's request for
7 information process by states will help ensure that local and
8 regional priorities—such as workforce training, infrastructure
9 readiness, economic diversification, and technology innovation—are
10 fully considered in federal-state partnerships shaping the future of
11 nuclear energy infrastructure; and

12 WHEREAS, Washington state has existing strengths in nuclear
13 science and technology, a skilled energy workforce, and communities
14 interested in expanding opportunities related to advanced energy
15 industries;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request the
17 Governor to:

18 (1) Express the state's interest in response to the United States
19 department of energy's request for information on hosting one or more
20 nuclear lifecycle innovation campuses and to communicate that
21 interest to the secretary of energy and appropriate federal officials
22 in a timely manner;

23 (2) Direct the appropriate state agency or interagency task force
24 to prepare and submit a response to the department of energy's
25 nuclear lifecycle innovation campuses request for information,
26 articulating Washington's priorities, capabilities, and proposed
27 scope of activities the state could host, including strategies for
28 workforce development, infrastructure investment, technology
29 leadership, and economic growth;

30 (3) Communicate to the secretary of energy the state's support
31 for nuclear innovation and interest in partnering on a nuclear
32 lifecycle innovation campus that aligns with Washington's economic,
33 energy, and workforce goals; and

34 (4) Work with the state legislature, regional stakeholders, local
35 governments, higher education institutions, and industry partners to
36 develop a coordinated vision and plan that can maximize the economic
37 and energy security benefits of participating in a federal-state
38 nuclear innovation initiative.

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