## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

## BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

## A HOUSE RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives deems it necessary and desirable to protect and preserve the water, air and land, as well as the aesthetic quality of the natural resources of the State of Idaho, for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the need for and importance of industry and jobs for all communities, but also finds that the costs of meeting these needs must be understood and that a line achieving an acceptable balance should be drawn; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that its role in exercising authority through the legislative process to protect its citizens from real or potential threats to their livelihoods, families, real estate and health is of critical importance to the citizens of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian company HiTest Silicon has proposed siting a silicon smelter project in Pend Oreille County, Washington, which borders Bonner County, Idaho, and has the potential to impact the quality of life in the Idaho communities of Oldtown, Priest River, Blanchard, Vay, Laclede, Dover and Sandpoint; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds that the still unknown effects of the proposed smelting operation and the effects of its potential hazardous waste on the surface and ground waters, air quality, wildlife, ecosystem, timber values and property values; the medical and health implications; the impact on Idaho's transportation systems of the shipping of raw and finished products; and the impact to the rural lifestyle requires thorough study and proper vetting prior to the approval of any public funding or the award of any state agency permits; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives should, in future legislative sessions, provide the necessary levels of scrutiny, debate and expertise to address current and future citizen concerns, in the event the proposed smelter project moves forward to completion; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes past abuses and significant problems with previous smelter operations in Idaho, particularly in the Kellogg and Silver Valley areas, and finds that the State of Idaho should learn from past mistakes and not allow a repeat of tragic impacts to the citizens, communities and ecosystem, by listening to testimony related to the best available science, methodologies and expertise on avoiding negative impacts on the area; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives urges the State of Idaho, including the legislative branch, the judicial branch and the executive branch and state agencies, to use all available resources to ensure that the precious water and watersheds of Bonner County are not marginalized, contaminated,

disrupted or impacted by any actions from those within or without the State of Idaho.

 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Representatives, assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, that all branches and agencies of the State of Idaho should work in unison toward the common goal of protecting and defending two of Idaho's great natural resources: the Lake Pend Oreille and Priest Lake watershed areas.