

**GENE WHISNANT**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 53



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

June 8, 2016

Dear Honorable Dr. Moniz,

I kindly request you select the Newberry Geothermal project as the site for Phase 2 and 3 of the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) project. I strongly support conducting activities for Phase 2 and 3 of the FORGE project on the flank of the Newberry volcano in Central Oregon, specifically on land leased by Davenport Newberry Holdings LLC (DNH) for the Newberry Geothermal project run by AltaRock Energy Inc. The NEWGEN team made up of Pacific Northwest National Lab, Oregon State University, AltaRock Energy, Stat Oil, and GE has proven expertise in geothermal energy. The Newberry site is an ideal location for FORGE due to its ideal temperature gradient, bedrock structure, and the fact that years of EGS work has already been done at the site including the successful creation of an EGS reservoir at the site. Two geothermal wells are already drilled and three geothermal pads are already developed at the site along with a road system, and a seismic array with 15 seismometers already in place. A great deal of work has already been done at the site with a great deal of data generated and permits for conducting work are already in place. Because of all the previous work and infrastructure already in place, the NEWGEN team will be able to hit the ground running should they be chosen for phase 2 and 3 of the FORGE project.

A key reason for selecting Newberry Geothermal Project is that the public has an understanding of the issues around EGS, and has seen that two rounds of EGS stimulations have caused no noticeable effects in the community. An extensive public outreach campaign had been ongoing for the last 5 years that has garnered overwhelming support in the community for locating FORGE at Newberry. Bend has an established and growing technology sector that is in strong support of NEWGEN's FORGE campaign, and there is overwhelming support in the business community. The Governor, Oregon's Senators, Deschutes County Commission, and local city councils have supported the FORGE project at Newberry. For all of these reasons, I urge you to support making Newberry the site for Phase 2 and 3 of the FORGE project.

Respectfully requested,

Gene Whisnant  
State Representative