

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1630

By Senators Morris, Abrams, Apple, Barnett, Brownlee, Brungardt, Colyer, Donovan, Emler, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Holland, Huntington, Kelly, Kelsey, Kultala, Lee, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, McGinn, Ostmeyer, Owens, Petersen, Reitz, D. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil and Wagle

3-30

15 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION supporting participation with the
16 State of Colorado in the Pierre Auger Observatory project proposed
17 to be built in Colorado; providing for formation of a task force to lead
18 the Kansas effort in collaboration with Colorado.

19
20 WHEREAS, The Pierre Auger Observatory project is a world-class
21 research project proposed to be built in southeastern Colorado (“Auger
22 North”), a location chosen by the scientific community due to its altitude
23 and latitude and because it offers large, relatively unpopulated expanses
24 under clear skies that experience low interference from lights; and

25 WHEREAS, The observatory, together with the Pierre Auger Cosmic-
26 Ray Observatory located in Argentina (“Auger South”), will conduct the
27 most advanced effort ever in the study of ultra-high energy cosmic rays,
28 the highest energy particles in the universe; and

29 WHEREAS, The project involves collaboration of 400 scientists from
30 more than 70 universities in 17 countries - - Argentina, Australia, Bolivia,
31 Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands,
32 Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and
33 Vietnam - - and would bring scientists from around the world to visit the
34 observatory; and

35 WHEREAS, The project would bring educational benefits to the re-
36 gion, involving Wichita State University, Kansas State University, the Uni-
37 versity of Kansas and Fort Hays State University, as well as recognition
38 for being the location of a world renowned research facility; and

39 WHEREAS, The observatory would create an opportunity in education
40 and outreach and would benefit the economy of the region, attracting
41 tourists from around the world and creating jobs affiliated with the pro-
42 ject, as well as a visitor center; and

43 WHEREAS, The observatory site will cover an area of 8,000 square

1 miles and will require the cooperation of local landowners who could
2 potentially benefit from tax credits if they choose to participate in the
3 project: Now, therefore,

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
5 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas Legislature strongly sup-
6 ports participation with the State of Colorado in Auger North and pledges
7 the support of Kansas educational institutions, with their demonstrated
8 expertise and experience with research; and

9 *Be it further resolved:* That a task force be formed to lead the Kansas
10 effort in collaboration with Colorado, such task force to be composed of:
11 The Governor or the Governor's designee, the President of the Senate
12 or the President's designee, the Minority Leader of the Senate or the
13 Minority Leader's designee, the Speaker of the House of Representatives
14 or the Speaker's designee, the Minority Leader of the House of Repre-
15 sentatives or the Minority Leader's designee and one representative ap-
16 pointed by the chief executive officer of each of the following: The Kansas
17 Board of Regents, Kansas Bioscience Authority, University of Kansas,
18 Wichita State University and Kansas State University; and

19 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State provide enrolled
20 copies of this resolution to Governor Mark Parkinson; Lieutenant Gov-
21 ernor Troy Findley; Donald L. Beggs, President, Wichita State University;
22 Kirk Schulz, President, Kansas State University; Bernadette Gray-Little,
23 Chancellor, University of Kansas; Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort
24 Hays State University; ~~Reggie Robinson~~ **Andy Tompkins**, President and
25 CEO, Kansas Board of Regents; and Thomas V. Thornton, President and
26 CEO, Kansas Bioscience Authority.