

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 497

Introduced by Watermeier, 1.

Read first time March 18, 2016

Committee: Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Nebraska is home to one of the world's largest and richest sources of superalloy materials such as niobium, scandium, and titanium, located in Johnson County near Elk Creek; and

WHEREAS, these superalloy materials are needed in a broad array of industries, including clean energy, energy efficiency, automotive, aerospace, defense, construction, and medicine; and

WHEREAS, scandium is particularly vital to clean energy technologies such as high-efficiency solid oxide fuel cells and has important applications in aviation and transportation that can significantly reduce fuel consumption and associated air emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Creek Superalloy Materials Project will help further diversify Nebraska's economy into critical and strategic material manufacturing and position the state as a global leader in the innovative manufacture of these vital materials; and

WHEREAS, NioCorp Developments Ltd. has been working intensely for several years to prepare the Elk Creek Project for commercial operation; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Creek Project is forecast to create up to 1,200 jobs during its multi-year construction period, up to 400 permanent, high-paying, high-skill jobs when fully operational, and an average annual payroll of approximately \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, these Nebraska superalloy materials will help our nation reduce its current 100 percent dependence upon foreign producers for niobium and scandium, which have important current and potential national defense

applications; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense is so concerned about maintaining adequate supplies of niobium for national defense that it is now purchasing niobium at taxpayer expense from foreign producers for storage in the national defense stockpile; and

WHEREAS, the Elk Creek Project will produce these critical and strategic materials in a safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature supports the advancement of the Elk Creek Superalloy Materials Project into commercial operation.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to NioCorp Developments Ltd.