



BC DEMS RESOLUTION 2024-03

WHEREAS, climate change is the pre-eminent Democratic Party issue; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party 2024 platform asserts “there is nothing more important than addressing the climate crisis;” and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party platform asserts “We have no time to waste in taking action to protect Americans’ lives and futures;” and

WHEREAS, methane is the most potent greenhouse gas, trapping 86 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the time to reduce carbon emissions is time-limited to 10-20 years if catastrophic temperature rise is to be prevented; and

WHEREAS, Republic Services’ Coffin Butte Landfill in Benton County is a methane super emitter because of numerous irremediable factors, including precipitation, waste intake volume type and quantity, and inadequate regulation, it is in the best interest of Benton County, and the planet, that the landfill reduce methane-producing waste-in-place; and

WHEREAS, by definition expanding the landfill will increase volumes of waste-in-place, not reduce those volumes; and

WHEREAS, Benton County has ceded control over waste intake volumes if the landfill is expanded; and

WHEREAS, any landfill expansion will increase methane output even without a removal of the existing waste intake volume cap; and

WHEREAS, methane-monitoring regulatory agencies such as the EPA are likely to be constrained in their abilities to effectively regulate emissions for the next near-, medium-, and long-term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Central Committee of the Benton County Democrats, in order to protect the earth’s climate, endorses the denial of any expansion request of the existing landfill, and any new landfill in Benton County.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: VIRGINIA SCOTT (PCP, pct. 16), NANCY WHITCOMBE (PCP, pct. 16), and CATHERINE STEARNS (PCP, pct. 16)

APPROVED BY THE BENTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 21, 2024


2nd Vice Chair Holly Shutta

11/21/2024
Date