



Resolution Rejecting the “Scout Clean Energy” Proposal to Build an 1150 MW Wind and Solar Farm that Projects up to 244 Massive 500’ Turbines which will be Built Along the Southern Skyline of Kennewick from Finley to Benton City

Whereas local government best understands local needs and should have the authority to approve or decline a project of this magnitude;

Whereas associated federal subsidies distort economic costs and benefits;

Whereas natural beauty and open spaces should not be infringed upon like the existing wind farm development in Washington State and along the northern Oregon border that has already resulted in the industrialization of previously scenic hillsides, canyons, and desert vistas in the region in and around Benton County;

Whereas these turbines will be visible from Kennewick, Pasco, Richland, West Richland, Finley and Benton City;

Whereas these turbines are an esthetically unpleasing eyesore and produce an irritating sound resulting in lowered property values;

Whereas a twenty-four mile long wall of wind turbines in the Pacific Flyway will impact bird passage;

Whereas none of the four utilities that provide energy to the Tri-Cities area, Benton County PUD, City of Richland, Franklin County PUD and Benton REA, have expressed any interest in the project;

Whereas the proposed wind farm will limit the ability of the adjacent cities and communities to grow in the area of the proposed wind farm; and

Whereas the Tri-Cities area is the home of the only nuclear plant in the Northwest providing base load capacity that is not dependent on the wind. Energy Northwest was recently chosen by the Department of Energy as the site for two new modular nuclear projects that would be built on the same property as the Columbia Generating Station. These two new nuclear projects will support hundreds of high paying nuclear jobs and are estimated to be operational in 7-10 years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Benton County Republican Party:

1. strongly opposes the proposed Scout Clean Energy wind farm in Benton County; and
2. recommends full support behind new nuclear projects.