



ACTION!

Senator McCain is closing in on the nomination! Many of our members have been elected to county and district meetings as delegates. **Be sure you attend and support him; the job isn't done until he gets the votes.** The opposition within the party is organized and any opening (a McCain delegate who doesn't show) will be a gift to them.

Several caucuses have passed the proposed **environmental plank on Hanford clean-up** to the next level. *If you introduced it into your caucus and it was adopted and passed on, please let us know via email.* There are several ways we are working on getting it into the state and national platform.

As we go to press, key negotiators are nearing agreement on the **Farm Bill**, which was previously stalled in Congress. Efforts are underway to reform farm subsidies. REP prefers conservation measures to price supports, which has also been the direction of the Bush administration's reform efforts. Initial indications were that there would be increases in the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) acreage and priority areas and an increase in WRP (Wetlands Reserve Program) acreage but we will not know until the bills are reported out of committee how much of this survived because the problem lately has been to cut funding costs for the bill. Watch for the provisions of these bills as they are reported out of committee. Contact your congressional representatives if they contain cuts in these vital conservation programs, asking that they work to increase or at least maintain them at their current levels.

Watch for action to prevent the **Department of Ecology from issuing permits at Hanford** in the form of a non-legislative effort to hold back the increase in waste at the site. WAREP is committed to support such efforts as part of our Hanford Cleanup Focus discussed in the last newsletter.

Save the dates! May 16-18 is the annual **Mainstream Republicans of Washington Cascade Conference**, this time in Gig Harbor. REP has hosted a gathering at their meeting in the past, and will do it again this year. Watch for details of our meeting. If you'd like more information on the conference, go to <http://www.washingtonmainstream.org/conference.aspx>.

Best regards,

Bob Batty

Chapter President

rwbatty@hughes.net