



A brief note to you from your chapter executive committee with news and action items in this political season.

Our three priority actions include ongoing work on the Hanford clean-up (recall this has been a priority for several years). Two caucus action items – first, a proposed Environmental Plank, the text of which appears below: please print it out and take it to your caucus and introduce it as a resolution; it should go forward to your county convention and on to the state convention. And, second, a reminder that REP nationally has endorsed Senator John McCain to be the Republican presidential nominee. Please go to your caucus and take these action items. If you can't get to your caucus, a letter to the editor of your newspaper would be good. **Caucuses are this coming Saturday, February 9;** check for your location on the Washington State Republican Party web site at www.wsrp.org, your County Republican web site, or in your local newspaper.

PROPOSED PRECINCT CAUCUS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANK

Opposing US Department of Energy Plan to Use Washington State as a National Radioactive Waste Dump and Supporting the Principle of Cleanup of Hanford's Contamination Before More Waste is Dumped

Whereas, over a million gallons of High-Level Nuclear Waste has leaked from tanks at Hanford and the contamination is spreading toward the Columbia River;

And, whereas, Hanford is the most contaminated area in the Western Hemisphere, and instead of cleaning up the contamination, the US Department of Energy continues to fight to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump and to rename and abandon High-Level Nuclear Waste in leaking tanks;

And, whereas, many Republican elected officials actively supported Initiative 297, requiring cleanup of Hanford before more waste can be dumped, which the voters of Washington State passed in 2004 with the highest "yes" vote ever in state history. However, the federal Energy Department was initially successful in a lawsuit to overturn the will of Washington's voters in order to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump for waste from nuclear weapons plants, and to avoid emptying and cleaning up High-Level Nuclear Waste tanks;

And, whereas, tens of thousands of truckloads of radioactive waste would come through our communities from Spokane to Vancouver to Bellevue if Hanford is a national radioactive waste dump;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the _____ District (or _____ County) Republicans and Washington State Republicans that:

- The Republican Party supports the defense of Initiative 297 adopted by Washington's voters to require cleanup of Hanford and protection of the Columbia River before more waste can be dumped;

- The Republican Party supports the efforts in Congress to turn back the US Energy Department's legislation to rename and abandon High-Level Nuclear Waste in leaking tanks, and the efforts of Washington's Republicans to ensure cleanup is funded;
- The District, County and State Republican Platforms support the principles adopted by the voters in Initiative 297 that require cleanup of contamination and oppose dumping of more waste at Hanford and use of our State as a national radioactive and toxic waste dump.

MCCAIN FOR PRESIDENT

The simple truth, as we see it, is that no other Republican candidate understands as well as McCain that energy is a convergence of security, economic, and climate risks requiring action today. No other GOP candidate has given the interrelated web of energy and climate issues the kind of thoughtful consideration or offered the legislative solutions that he has. McCain championed greenhouse gas emissions reductions before it was cool, before it was popular. See http://www.rep.org/news/GEvol11/ge11.2_why_we_endorsed_McCain.html. REP endorsed him when most thought he was out of the race, and now we can say we were right all along. How about those stunning victories!

HANFORD CLEANUP ACTION

Your Executive Committee voted Hanford Cleanup as WAREP's #1 priority and adopted a three-part action plan to address it in our January meeting. The caucus plank above is the first action step and we hope as many of you as possible attend your caucus and introduce this plank. The second action step is supporting legislation that adopts the principles of I-297 (the Hanford Cleanup initiative). As I write this, two bills have been introduced and are in the works in the Washington Legislature (SB 5393 and HB1419). Please contact your senator and representatives and ask them to support these bills as they add some much needed teeth to the very difficult problem of getting Hanford cleaned up before more nuclear waste shipments are accepted. The third action step is to get involved in the cleanup effort more proactively by participating in the Tri-Party meetings and processes to the extent possible. We will keep you informed on all three of these as things progress.

We appreciate your support and welcome any input you have by contacting any of the Executive Committee members listed below.

Best regards,

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Chapter President

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