

Ratifying and Implementing COP21

WHEREAS an historic agreement to combat climate change was reached by 195 nations, including the United States of America, at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris on December 12, 2015;

WHEREAS the agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in order to avoid the worst impacts of a changing climate;

WHEREAS the agreement requires actions to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- support the development of "clean energy" alternatives
- be transparent on actions taken and accomplishments
- strengthen the ability to protect against and recover from climate change impacts

WHEREAS the agreement will enter into force after 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification at the United Nations in New York

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Benton County Democrats, call on the U.S. President to ratify the agreement by executive action when it opens for signature on April 22, 2016;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Benton County Democrats, call on all levels of U.S. government, federal, state, and local, to work towards meeting the requirements of COP21 and thereby ensure a sustainable energy future;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, the Benton County Democrats, call on the Washington State Governor and the Legislature to lead by example in abiding by the spirit and intent of COP21.

Submitted by Richard Badalamente and the 8th LDDO Climate Change Committee to the Benton County Democratic Central Committee 2/16/2016.