

## Opposing Newport Silicon Smelter

**WHEREAS** a Canadian company, HiTest Sands, Inc., is proposing to build a Silicon Smelter in a pristine and non-industrial area outside of Newport Washington;

**WHEREAS** HiTest Sands was asked by the State of Washington to review three other abandoned and available industrial sites that could be retrofitted and were close to roads that could manage heavy industrial use, but chose to go with the Newport site;

**WHEREAS** the proposed location does not have adequate infrastructure for roads, water or fire services and is in an area prone to wild fires;

**WHEREAS** the property, owned by the public utility and Pend Oreille County was sold well below its purchase price, and not offered to the public;

**WHEREAS** the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), which consists of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians is deeply concerned about the smelter's potential to harm their sovereign interests in protecting the health of their people and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS** because of the record of the Canadian firm, Teck Cominco, operation at the headwaters of the Columbia River now pouring untreated sludge into the Columbia River and have been doing so for over 50 years, and the concern that the same thing will happen to rivers and streams around the proposed smelter;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats oppose the proposed development of a silicon smelter near Newport Washington.

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Submitted by the Okanogan County Democrats.

The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 15, 2018 meeting.

The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16, 2018.