

On October 4, 2008 at the Annual Meeting of Oregon Rural Action, the members duly adopted the following resolution welcoming the Columbia Basin Chapter.

Columbia Basin Chapter Resolution – Oregon Rural Action Resolution 7.1

Welcoming the Columbia Basin Chapter on the occasion of the seventh Annual Convention of Oregon Rural Action and recognizing the importance of organizing in the Columbia Basin and the unique contribution the members of such chapter will make to the mission of Oregon Rural Action.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Columbia Basin is an important economic, political, and cultural hub of Eastern Oregon;

Whereas Umatilla County is the most populous county in Eastern Oregon;

Whereas Oregon Rural Action works to promote social justice, economic and agricultural sustainability, and stewardship of the region's land, air and water;

Whereas Oregon Rural Action envisions the responsible and sustainable use of our natural resources and agricultural lands, a region of social livability and equality, thriving and diverse local economies, and opportunity for present and future generations;

Whereas the Oregon Rural Action board of directors decided in its most recent Strategic Plan to expand into Umatilla County through the organization of a new chapter;

Whereas an initial organizing assessment of Umatilla County was completed confirming the strategic importance of organizing in Umatilla County;

Whereas Oregon Rural Action received a significant grant from the Wyss Foundation for the purpose of organizing a new chapter in the Columbia Basin;

Whereas the Western Organization of Resource Council's Civic Engagement Program identified significant interest in the issue work of Oregon Rural Action among registered voters in the Columbia Basin;

Whereas the staff of Oregon Rural Action has spent a significant amount of time engaged in organizing work in Umatilla County;

Whereas there has not heretofore been a concentrated effort to create a long-term, multi-issue community organizing group based in the Columbia Basin;

Whereas a number of interested community members in West Umatilla County have formed an organizing committee to make the crucial decisions necessary to launch a new chapter;

Whereas the members of said organizing committee have affirmed the importance of community organizing and affirm the mission and vision of Oregon Rural Action; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the membership of Oregon Rural Action welcomes the Columbia Basin Chapter on the occasion of the seventh Annual Convention of Oregon Rural Action and recognizes the importance of organizing in the Columbia Basin and the unique contribution such chapter will make to the mission of Oregon Rural Action.