2022BCDCC-100-AGR-10032022 - Agrivoltaics Benefits to Eastern Washington

Whereas, eastern Washington state is experiencing reduced precipitation which impacts agriculture and drop in water levels of aquifers;

Whereas, eastern Washington state can benefit from increasing profitability and expansion of smaller scale specialty farming with reduced water needs;

Whereas, eastern Washington state has significantly less rainfall than Tucson, Az at 8.5" average vs 11.5" average for Tucson;

Whereas, likely crops such as berries, melons, speciality and heritage (landrace) plants, and grazing specialty heritage livestock based on the programs underway at the University of Arizona (1)(2), Colorado State University(3), and National Energy Research Laboratory(4) in Boulder, Colorado;

Whereas, even small farms can be helped (5);

Whereas, eastern Washington state is a prime area of Solar Power Developments: and long standing agricultural industry including grazing livestock (6),(7)(8);

Be is resolved that:

Washington state democratic party shall work with State and Federal legislators, state agencies, WSU & federal legislators to seek funding from infrastructure from USDOE NREL for demonstrations in applying agrivoltaics;

Democratic party should contact Energy Northwest about the new Solar Panel Demonstration regarding a collaboration with Richland Wa Washington State University (WSU) Branch Campus to implement agrivoltaic demonstrations in conjunction with their solar panel array as part of a demonstration program;

Funding will be sought from USDA (National Institute of Food andAgriculture), USDOE NREL(Boulder, Colorado) and private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;

Agrivoltaics technology could also be important in foreign aid programs in arid areas or areas that are getting drier due to Global Warming and associated Climate Change;

1.https://research.arizona.edu/stories/what-is-agrivoltaics

2.https://news.arizona.edu/story/agrivoltaics-across-food-water-energy-nexus

3.https://agsci.source.colostate.edu/researcher/researchers-testing-whether-speciality-crops-solar panels-can thrive-together/

4. www.nrel.gov
5. How Solar Panels Could Help Save Struggling Farms: Solar companies and farmers can work together to harvest sunlight for both energy and food. NaoZhi Lim (1/18/2021)

6. https://www.solargrazing.org, What is Solar Grazing and How Does it Work.

7. https://www.elsevier.com/locate/jclerpro Photovoltaic Panels as Shading for Resources for Live Stock. Journal of Cleaner Production, 258(2020)

8. Solar PV Power Potential is Greatest Over Croplands; Elnaz H. Adeh, Stephen P. Good, M. Calaf, and Chad W. Higgens; www.nature.com/Scientific-reports; 07 August 2019

BCDCC Chair _____
Richard Reuther

BCDCC Secretary _____