



CHEROKEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Resolution to Protect Cherokee County from the Rapid Expansion of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

WHEREAS, more than one thousand Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sites are in production, in development, or in planning stages throughout Texas; and

WHEREAS, the BESS sites, due to their rapid expansion, have few accepted industry safety standards; and

WHEREAS, energy companies, including many foreign-owned companies, are targeting unincorporated rural counties with low populations; and

WHEREAS, many of these BESS sites are owned or operated by foreign entities, whose interests may not be aligned with those of Texas, that either purchase or lease personal property and pose a potential security risk; and

WHEREAS, the proximity of BESS sites to residential areas may cause significant safety concerns for residents and severe loss in property values; and

WHEREAS, many rural Texas counties are not equipped and are inadequately funded to be able to protect against these risks; and

WHEREAS, these lithium battery systems, with known volatile risks, contain software susceptible to cyberterrorist attacks from foreign adversaries that could result in the destruction of our power grid, explosions, runaway fires, exposure to toxic gases, environmental contamination, destruction of personal property, loss of property values, and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, both HB 1343 and HB 1378; relating to the regulation of energy storage in Texas, were denied a fair hearing and vote within the Texas House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, SB 819, a bill relating to renewable energy generation facilities, authorizing fees, and amending Chapter 35, Utility Code, was denied a fair hearing and vote within the Texas House of Representatives, and in spite of passing to Engrossment by majority Senate vote; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cherokee County Republican Party, in defense of Cherokee County from the many dangers associated with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technologies, opposes any and all BESS rapid expansion efforts within Cherokee County; the Cherokee County Republican Party hereby resolves to encourage all legal means of protecting against the rapid expansion of BESS sites upon any parcel or parcels of land within Cherokee County, to include elected and non-elected citizens exercising the Sub-Regional Planning Commission option under Chapter 391, Texas Local Government Code Title 12.