

With U.S. out, Taos County re-ups on climate commitment

Staff report

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All five Taos County commissioners approved a resolution Tuesday (Dec. 18) to affirm the government's commitment to the Paris Agreement. The agreement is a global commitment to tackle climate change that was signed by almost every country in the world in 2016. President Trump requested the United States withdraw from the agreement although doing so will officially take until 2020.

Many major cities have waved off the federal government's stance and made efforts to independently reduce emissions of climate-warming gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane. Commissioner Candyce O'Donnell introduced the county resolution in October though commissioners have tweaked the language since.

While the president espouses misinformation about global climate change, the county's resolution opens with an affirmation of climate science. "Consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that we face a major global climate crisis caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with rising seas levels and melting ice sheets creating increasingly unpredictable and unhealthy living environments as we approach a dangerous threshold of global warming," it reads.